



CATHOLICS FOR THE COMMON GOOD

EVANGELIZING THE CULTURE[®]

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June 12, 2013

AB 460 Health Care Coverage: Infertility

Senator Kevin de León
Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations
State Capitol Building, Room 2206
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator de Leon

Catholics for the Common Good strongly opposes AB 460. This bill has an unintended consequence that has not been considered, i.e. the cost to the state of facilitating the creation of more fatherless children.

National studies show that fatherless children are **2 times** more likely to be arrested for juvenile crime, treated for emotional and behavioral problems, and suspended or expelled from school. They are **3 times** more likely to be incarcerated by the age of 30. More statistics and sources are attached. In order to facilitate the desires of certain adults, should the state be promoting the creation of more fatherless children?

According to the sponsors, discrimination occurs because married women are able to qualify for infertility coverage through unfruitful sexual intercourse with prospective fathers at no cost, while single women or lesbians must pay for a number of courses of artificial insemination using anonymously donated sperm to demonstrate infertility and qualify. A study prepared by the California Health Benefits Review Program at the request of the Legislature indicates "a preponderance of evidence that infertility treatment health insurance mandates are associated with an increase in utilization of infertility treatments." In the case of this bill, this will unquestionably lead to the creation of more fatherless children. That will lead to tragic human consequences for children and exorbitant state expenses.

Beyond the risk factors and societal costs, there is an even a more important principle as the basis of our objection. It is a gross violation of a fundamental human right to create of children with the intention of depriving them of part of their identity – knowing and, as far as possible, being cared for by their mothers or fathers or both, and can never be justified as an act of love. This right of the child is self-evident considering our own desire for connection with the man and woman from whom we originated and is even recognized in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Sec.7)

This practice, unlike adoption where children have already lost their mothers and fathers, is based on a false premise that children's rights are superseded by a claimed "right" to have a child, a person of equal value and dignity to adults. Can anyone claim a "right" to another?

We urge the committee to vote no on AB 460. It is irresponsible for the state to adopt policies that will create more at-risk children.

Sincerely,

William B. May
President

Attachment

cc: Assemblyman Tom Ammiano
Members of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

Quick Facts about the Breakdown of Marriage and Family

- **41%** of children are **born to unmarried mothers** (73% for African Americans)¹
- **71%** of **poor families** are **not married**²
- **Marriage decreases** the probability a child will live in **poverty** by **82%**³
- **Fatherless or single parent homes** produce children who are
 - **2 times** more likely to be **arrested for juvenile crime**⁴
 - **2 times** more likely to be **treated** for emotional and behavioral problems⁵
 - **2 times** more likely to be **suspended or expelled** from school⁶
 - **33% more likely** to **drop out of school**⁷
 - **3 times** more likely to **end up in jail by age 30**⁸
- Compared to a married mother and father,⁹ children living with an unmarried mother
 - and **biological father** are **4 times** more likely to be **sexually, physically or emotionally abused;**
 - and a boyfriend are **11 times** more likely to be **sexually, physically or emotionally abused;**
 - and **biological father** are **3 times** more likely to be **physically, emotionally, or educationally neglected;**
 - and a boyfriend are **6 times** more likely to be **physically, emotionally, or educationally neglected.**

The effects of marriage breakdown on children continue into adulthood.

- Compared to intact families, children raised by single parents
 - are **50%** more likely to **suffer poverty** as adults¹⁰
- Compared to intact families, girls raised by single parents
 - are **2 times** more likely to **have a child** outside of marriage¹¹

¹ Center for Disease Control, National Vital Statistics, 2009.

² Robert Rector, "Marriage: America's Greatest Weapon Against Child Poverty," Heritage Foundation, 2010, <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2010/09/marriage-america-s-greatest-weapon-against-child-poverty>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Chris Coughlin and Samuel Vuchinich, "Family Experience in Preadolescence and the Development of Male Delinquency," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, vol. 58, no. 2 (1996): 491–501.

⁵ Deborah A. Dawson, "Family Structure and Children's Health and Well-Being: Data from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey on Child Health," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, vol. 53, no. 3 (August 1991): 573–584.

⁶ Wendy D. Manning and Kathleen A. Lamb, "Adolescent Well-Being in Cohabiting, Married, and Single-Parent Families," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, vol. 65, no. 4 (2003): 876–893. Data from Add Health study. See also Dawson, "Family Structure and Children's Health and Well-Being: Data from the 1988 National Health Interview Survey on Child Health."

⁷ Timothy Biblarz and Greg Gottainer, "Family Structure and Children's Success: A Comparison of Widowed and Divorced Single-Mother Families," *Journal of Marriage and Family*, vol. 62 (May 2000): 533–548.

⁸ Rector, "Marriage," Heritage Foundation.

⁹ Fourth National Incidence Study of Child Abuse and Neglect, U.S. Dept. Health and Human Services, 2011.

¹⁰ Rector, "Marriage," Heritage Foundation.

¹¹ Ibid.