

Ragan Report



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FOCA

A Radical Threat to Human Life

We are facing the most serious threat to pro-life policies ever—the “Freedom of Choice Act”, or FOCA. This bill would create a right to abortion the government could not limit and bring about a national abortion policy far worse than the U.S. Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision. For the first time, abortion would become an *entitlement* the government must fund and promote. Citizens would lose the freedom they now have to enact even modest regulation of the abortion industry. FOCA would:

- Eliminate regulations that protect women from unsafe clinics and unscrupulous abortionists
- Force American taxpayers to fund abortions
- Force every state to allow partial-birth abortions—its sponsors have said a primary purpose of the bill is to ensure that killing partially born children will again be permitted nationwide
- Run roughshod over the conscience rights of physicians, nurses and hospitals that oppose abortion on religious, moral or ethical grounds
- Strip parents of their right and responsibility to be involved in their minor daughter’s abortion decision

Simply put, if FOCA becomes law, it will put at risk all the widely-supported laws that for 35 years have promoted women’s health, ensured informed consent, protected minors, ensured parental involvement, safeguarded rights of conscience, and respected the desire of most citizens not to support abortion with their tax dollars.

FOCA also explicitly encourages challenges in court against any law or regulation that protects unborn children and their mothers and families in the abortion context, promising a virtual cottage industry of lawsuits.

And FOCA’s tentacles would reach beyond federal policies to every state and local law or regulation having to do with abortion.

FOCA is without doubt the most radical abortion legislation ever considered in the United States.

Abortion supporters have been trying to pass FOCA since 1989—and now we have a Congress more disposed than any in recent years to pass the bill, and a new President who has said he will sign the measure into law.

Your voice is needed more than ever! At this time of serious national challenges, Americans should unite to serve the good of all, born and unborn—not single out the most defenseless human beings for an expanded attack on their lives.

Please urge your federal elected officials to oppose FOCA or any similar measure, and to retain laws against the federal funding and promotion of abortion.

FOCA embodies the public policy goals of pro-abortion groups. These groups will promote the bill’s passage directly, and advance its agenda by working to reverse pro-life laws one at a time.

? What You Can Do

- Sign a postcard
- Write a thoughtful letter
- Make a phone call
- Send an e-mail message
- Write a letter-to-the-editor to your local paper
- Call a radio talk show
- Speak at a public event
- Meet with your Representative and Senators
- Place an ad in a local paper. See: www.usccb.org/prolife/media/docs/foca.pdf.

Where to Call

U.S. Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121. Ask for the offices of your Representative and two Senators.

The White House: 202-456-1111.

Where to Write

The Honorable _____
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Send an E-Mail

E-mail messages reinforce communications sent through postcards, letters, phone calls, and personal meetings. To send e-mails to Capitol Hill or the White House, please visit the special e-mail action page at: nchla.org.

For More Information

Please visit nchla.org and usccb.org/prolife/issues/FOCA.

Your help is urgently needed! Please take action today!

Grand Knights Message....

“The Forgotten Sacrament”

We often do not talk about Reconciliation as it is a sacrament received in privacy and outside of public view. Keenly aware of this, Pope John Paul the Great led by example and received the sacrament of Reconciliation on a weekly basis throughout his pontificate. This part of his life has received little attention but should serve as a reminder that God's mercy is readily available to those who seek it.

This Lent we should make a concerted effort to assure that we receive this sacrament in a degree consistent with our conscience. We should also encourage our Catholic loved ones, who have avoided the confessional, to seek God's grace through absolution and to revisit this sacrament as a means for a more intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father and in preparation for Easter.

Vivat Jesus
Scott Gedeon

Isabella Update

Got the winter blahs? Need to get out of the house? Come on down and join the ladies on Tuesday March 10th at 7:00 PM as we sample the wares of a local vintner in what is described as the Best Wine Tasting Party Ever Held (on a Tuesday in March). Guests are welcome so stop by and see what you've been missing. For more information call Sandy Moore at 933-9957.

Measure Up Campaign Scheduled for May 2nd & 3rd

Chairman Dan Pulit has done a great job of organizing teams to solicit donations at Wal-Mart; Heinen's; & Giant Eagle as well as the local parishes but still needs your help. Dan has even offered to buy sandwiches at Subway for the guys working at Wal-Mart. We only need your help for an hour or two or if your schedule is really tight, how about helping before or after Mass at your local parish. You have to go to church anyway so please consider donating a couple of extra minutes to help out those folks dealing with Mental Retardation. Give Dan a call at 440-930-2319

Upcoming Degrees

If you have not completed your journey to Knighthood, consider joining us at the following degrees. If you know of a friend who is in line for furtherance of his degrees, bring him down. Even if you have achieved the honors of Knighthood come on down. You will be amazed at the nuances of our ceremonials that you missed when you were exemplified

2nd Degree - March 19th 7:30 PM

3rd Degree - April 5th 1:00 PM

Marine Band Concert

We will publish more details in the coming months but we want you to mark your calendars and plan on attending the concert presented by the United States Marine Band on May 10th at Avon Lake High

Awards Banquet April 4th Open to everyone

Join in as we honor the people who have been instrumental in continuing the heritage of Fr Ragan Council's service to members, the church & the community. This year's Awards Dinner which will be held April 4th. We will start with Mass at Holy Trinity at 5:00 PM. Immediately after Mass the banquet will begin at our hall. Dinner and beverages will be provided to satisfy your hunger with the presentation of awards to follow.

March 2009

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	29	30	31				

8 Daylight Saving Time Begins



16 7:00 PM Confirmation
St Vincent DePaul
Elyria



17 Mc Mannus Assembly
8:00 PM Lorain Council



10 Isabella Guild
7:00 PM



11 Pet Placement Bingo
7:30 PM Confirmation
St Mary's Avon



19 Social Meeting 8:00
2nd Degree
Candidates 7:30PM



20 Fr Ragan Bingo



27 Fr Ragan Bingo
7:00 PM Confirmation
St Joe's A L



28 4th Deg Exemplification



25 Pet Placement Bingo

