

the EDUCATOR

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America the Beautiful?

America is fast becoming a culture of death. We are tumbling down a slippery slope toward euthanasia and doctor assisted suicide. What happened to America, that a husband could deny his handicapped wife medical treatment and rehabilitation and then deny her food and water until she dies?

What Went Wrong?

Newsmax reported that Terri Schiavo's parents were out gunned by a high powered attorney with a death agenda. This attorney was aided by a judicial system that views the Constitution as an evolutionary document that is altered with "enlightenment." If there is no God, there is no absolute standard of right and wrong.

In America today there reigns a spirit of judicial supremacy; men in black robes who feel that they are accountable to no one, changing America from "the rule of law to the rule of judges." — *Judge Robert Bork*. Today's judges need to be reminded that the Founding Fathers intended the judicial branch to be the "least powerful" branch of government. — *Alexander Hamilton*.

What Can Be Done?

Americans need to educate themselves with the truth about the Founding Fathers and the original intent of the Constitution. The truth will refute the myth of separation of church and state. The authors of the Declaration of Independence declared God as the Supreme Lawgiver, Supreme Judge and Protector. Americans need to demand that Congress and the state legislatures implement the impeachment process against activist judges who are redesigning America one ruling at a time.

HELPFUL WEBSITES

Terri Schindler-Schiavo Foundation
www.terrisfigbt.org

Family Research Council
www.frc.org

Most comprehensive article written on the Terri Schiavo case:

"The Whole Terri Schiavo Story,"
http://worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=43463,
accessed on April 2, 2005

Letter to Danny

"America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great."

—Alexis de Tocqueville

Just hours before Terri Schiavo died, a local homeschooling mother sent this e-mail to her son away at college.

Dear Danny,

My heart is breaking over what is happening in our country right now! In the 44 years of my lifetime, I have witnessed the abandonment of the Christian truth and ideals on which this country was founded. I have watched the killing of innocent babies in the womb transformed into selfish arguments of, "my privacy and right to choose". Now, the torture and murder of an innocent handicapped woman is reduced to "dying with dignity." Shame on us!! God have mercy on us! I hope and pray that He has more mercy on us than we had on Terri Schiavo! Worst of all is the realization that the American Christian church is completely silent. How can this be? It was in the pulpits of America that the War for Independence was birthed and sustained. It was in the pulpits of America that the abolition movement was birthed and sustained, but now when America needs the Church more than ever, they are silent. Talk show hosts have replaced God's people as the conscience of our nation. Sorry for the rambling, but this is so terribly hard to watch. We all need to stop living life for ourselves and realize that life is not about us, it's about Him. Our lives are about knowing Jesus and we need to really live in light of that truth. I'm enclosing some really thoughtful commentaries on this situation for you to review. I wish I could say it will be enjoyable reading, but it isn't. It is, however, important reading.

Love,

Mom

If you would like to read the articles this mother sent her son, visit www.visionforum.com and view A Cup of Water for Terri part I and II. The following are excerpts from part II.

A. Foundational Principles

There are fundamental questions that must be answered and principles which must be established to rightly interpret the tragic events surrounding the execution of Terri Schiavo. How our society answers these questions and affirms these principles will determine whether or not our children will grow up in a ruthless fratricidal society of bioethical bigots or whether Christian ethics will govern.

1. God Through His Revelation is the Source of Authority

The first question is "by what standard does man have the right to end the life of another human being created in the image of God?" The answer is: God alone gives life, and He alone may take life or delegate to another the authority to take life on His behalf (Romans 13:1-4). The mind of God on the matter of taking life is clearly revealed through Holy Scripture - the final authority on the issue. Scripture distinguishes between justifiable killing and murder (Deuteronomy 19:12)... There are no other biblical grounds for taking the life of another person. Note that individuals do not have absolute rights to their own bodies. God

Free seminar about America's Godly Heritage will be given at 7pm on Sept. 19, 2005. Rick Green from Wallbuilders will be speaking. Contact Sue Means, means@thesafety.net or 412-854-4188 for details.

is the owner of our bodies, which we hold in trust for Him. This is why suicide - self killing - has always been viewed as a murder, in violation of the Sixth Commandment (Exodus 20:13).

2. Life, Personhood, and the Right to Life

Human life is special and must be distinguished from animal life. It is special because it is soul-ish life made in the image of God. Life begins at conception and continues as long as the soul remains in the body. The Bible teaches that to be “absent from the body [is] to be present with the Lord” (II Corinthians 5:8). So-called “brain dead” men and women with functioning organs are very much alive, and their souls remain connected to their bodies. Science history is replete with numerous examples of individuals diagnosed as comatose, with minimal brain functions, who return to consciousness after many years. They never lost their souls or their personhood, and they were grateful that their lives were not terminated.

Contrary to the teaching of pro-eugenics bio-ethicists, consciousness is not the criteria for life or for personhood. As long as a soul remains in the body, a human is “alive” and is a unique person worthy of respect and protection with the God-given right to life. The popular term “vegetable” and the medical term “vegetative state” are inappropriate, emotionally-charged verbiage designed to reduce the status of a human being to that of a plant in order to rob them of their personhood as a pretext for termination. After all, what could be wrong with killing a vegetable - i.e., a plant? However, to knowingly terminate the life of a living, soul-filled person by depriving him of basic care is to murder the individual, contrary to the Sixth Commandment.

3. Who Decides the Quality of Life of a Person?

For the same reason that man may not kill without delegated authority from the Creator, man may not attempt to evaluate the quality of life of another as a pretext for terminating that life. Unhappiness is not a biblical ground for killing. Pain is not a biblical ground for killing. Mental limitations or physical abnormalities are not biblical grounds for killing. Opinions about the quality of life of another are never biblical grounds for killing.

4. The Duties of Parents and Guardians

There is an affirmative duty in Biblical and common law for parents and guardians to provide basic care and to do all that is reasonable to preserve the life of a dependent. Basic care includes food, water, shelter, and air. Finally, the duty of parents and guardians to provide care does not hinge on issues like viability, dependency, self-sufficiency and the use of tools, machinery, or invasive procedures to provide basic care. Pre-born babies are fed through tubes called umbilical cords. IVs are used to hydrate the sick. Spoons are used to hand-feed quadriplegics. Tracheotomies are used to help people who would be otherwise incapable of breathing. One cannot claim a right to suspend basic care based on the necessary use of tools or invasive procedures.

5. Preserving Life vs. Prolonging Death

There is a difference between preserving life and prolonging death. There is a difference between killing a dependent person (baby, elderly, sick, etc.) by depriving them of the basic elements necessary for sustaining life versus taking “extraordinary” medical measures to attempt to extend the life of a person in the midst of systemic and persistent organ failure.

The Plight of Terri Schindler-Schiavo

A Case Study in Judicial Tyranny

Abridged Timeline

- Terri Schindler and Michael Schiavo were married in November 1986.
- Terri Schindler-Schiavo collapsed at home on 25 February 1990. There was an initial suspicion of a heart attack, but that diagnosis was quickly abandoned.¹
- August 1992, Terri was awarded \$250,000 in a malpractice lawsuit.²
- November 1992, Terri was awarded \$1,400,000 and Michael Schiavo was awarded \$600,000 in a malpractice trial.²
- February 1993, Michael Schiavo denied recommended rehabilitation services to Terri Schindler-Schiavo.²
- February 1993, Michael Schiavo posted a “Do Not Resuscitate” order on Terri’s chart.²
- August 1993, Michael Schiavo ordered medical treatment withheld from Terri for a potential fatal infection.²
- November 1993, Michael Schiavo admitted in a deposition he knew withholding treatment of infection could result in Terri’s death.²
- 1997, Michael Schiavo’s engagement to Jodi Centonze was announced.²
- Seven years after her collapse, Michael Schiavo asserts Terri would not want to live in her present condition.³
- March 2005, Terri Schindler-Schiavo died of dehydration and starvation following a prolonged court battle.

Facts about Terri Ignored by the Main Stream Media

- Many of the facts presented by the media in the Terri Schindler-Schiavo case are nothing more than legal fiction.
- Terri was not in a “Persistent Vegetative State.”¹
- Judge Greer has dismissed or ignored testimony from 33 physicians (15 neurologists) who are willing to testify that Terri was not in a persistent vegetative state and could improve.⁴
- Terri Schindler-Schiavo was able to swallow.¹ (Evidently Judge Greer was well aware of this because guards at the hospice were ordered not to allow anyone to bring Terri food or drink.)
- Terri Schindler responded to external stimuli.¹
- It was possible if not probable Terri would respond to rehabilitation.¹
- Terri suffered numerous broken bones as revealed in a bone scan performed in March 1991.⁵
- Facts regarding the Terri Schindler-Schiavo case were determined by Judge Greer.⁴ The administrative appeals reviewed only the process, not the facts.
- Judge Greer accepted a campaign contribution from the law firm of Michael Schiavo’s attorney only one day after “Terri’s Law” was declared unconstitutional by a Pinellas County court.⁴

- Judge Greer refused to allow the Florida Department of Children and Families to conduct a criminal investigation of Michael Schiavo.⁴
- Judge Greer refused to honor a subpoena from the U.S. Congress.⁴
- The United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida had an opportunity to review the case anew but elected to respect states' rights in this instance. In fact under the federal law passed on March 25, 2005, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida was ordered by Congress to review the case anew and independently of the Florida state proceedings⁶, but the court ignored the law.

Summary and Call to Action

Many of the facts regarding the plight of Terri-Schindler are unclear and confusing. What is clear is that this unfortunate lady was sentenced to death by Judge Greer in spite of many facts that indicated his decisions were based upon legal fiction. For this reason, the United States Congress took up the cause of the Schindler family. Judge Greer then thumbed his nose at a Congressional subpoena.

In an emergency session, the United States Congress granted the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida authority to hear Terri's case. The court was charged with hearing any plea entered by either of Terri's parents anew. Such a plea was entered and Judge James Whittemore refused to hear the case. Subsequently, many appeals were filed, but in the end Judge Whittemore's decision prevailed and Terri Schindler-Schiavo died.

While the plight of Terri Schindler-Schiavo is tragic enough in its own right, the judicial arrogance and tyranny is beyond comprehension. A judge's tenure in office is conditional upon good behavior. In the Terri Schindler-Schiavo case, the courts thumbed their noses at Congress. Such actions undermine our system of checks and balances and should not be tolerated. **Please contact your United States Senators and Congressman. Ask them to hold these two judges accountable. Judge Greer should be held in contempt of Congress and charged with causing the death of Terri Schindler-Schiavo who was subpoenaed to appear before Congress. Congress should hold an impeachment hearing regarding the failure of Judge Whittemore to uphold the law passed for the Schindler family.**

¹ "Complete Report of Dr. William Hammesfahr", http://libertytothecaptives.net/hammesfahr_dr_report.html, accessed on April 3, 2005

² "A comprehensive Timeline and Archive of the Terri Schindler-Schiavo Case", <http://www.terrisfight.org/timeline.html>, accessed on April 2, 2005

³ "The whole Terri Schiavo story", http://worldnetdaily.com/news/article.asp?ARTICLE_ID=43463, accessed on April 2, 2005

⁴ Greer Got Donation From Mike Schiavo's Lawyer, <http://www.newsmax.com/archives/ic/2005/3/25/230207.shtml>, accessed on April 2, 2005

⁵ "Terri Schiavo's bone scan - Dr. Walker's deposition of 11/21/2003", <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-bloggers/1371794/posts>, accessed on April 2, 2005

⁶ "An Act For the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo", <http://thomas.loc.gov> (enter S.686 in the search engine), accessed on April 3, 2005

Support H.B. 505 Homeschool Reform Bill

Calls and visits are needed to support a Homeschooling Reform Bill. On February 14, 2005 Representative Pat Fleagle (R) introduced House Bill 505. This bill is an amendment to Pennsylvania's Homeschooling Law removing superintendents from reviewing portfolios in home education programs to determine whether the students is receiving and appropriate education. Instead, the parent would only submit to the superintendent the written evaluation from a qualified evaluator. This bill also provides for an administrative procedure to resolve questions about the parent's compliance with the law, thereby protecting the family from truancy charges.

Action Requested

1. Please contact your state senator and state representative with this message: "Please vote for House Bill 505. This bill would eliminate the double evaluation of home education programs by public school superintendents. The proposed change in the law would continue to require superintendents to view a written evaluation by a qualified evaluator but superintendents would not review portfolio materials. This bill will improve administrative procedures for each homeschooling family's compliance with the homeschool law."
2. Report back to the Educator and let us know about your efforts and results by contacting Sue Means at means@thesafety.net
3. Place yourself on an email alert list in order to receive legislative updates. Contact the Homeschool Legal Defense Association at info@hsllda.org or call (540) 338-5600.
4. Please ask every homeschooling family you know to contact their legislator.

Organize a group of homeschoolers to make sure your state representative and senator receive 10 letters and 5 visits. Make an e-mail list of kindred homeschool spirits who will make phone calls and write letters a critical times (i.e. votes in and out of committees and on the floor of the House of Representatives and Senate).

Talking points:

- School districts have lost or misplaced student's portfolios containing their documentation for the year's work.
- The city of Pittsburgh has asked to view only the written evaluation of the evaluator for years.
- Under the present law, a qualified evaluator reviews the student's portfolio and writes an evaluation for the superintendent. It is unnecessary for the superintendent to make a second review of the portfolio which is both tedious and time consuming.

You can find the name and telephone number of your state senator and state representative by using HSLDA's Legislative Toolbox at <http://www.hsllda.org/elink.asp?ID=2220>

To view a copy of House Bill 505 go to <http://www.hsllda.org/elink.asp?ID=2221>

Lobbying Made Easy

Your first call or visit to your legislator may be a bit intimidating. Here are some helpful hints to assist you on your journey to political activism.

First, understand that you play a crucial part in the political process. Legislators are elected to serve you and they need your input on how proposed legislation will impact your life. Between one to two thousand new bills are introduced to the state legislature each year. Legislators have a monumental task of familiarizing themselves with all the details of these bills.

Though legislators are more knowledgeable about the bills they sponsor and the bills that pass through the committees on which they serve, they frequently have not considered points of view that are important to you. Your phone call, letter, or visit alerts them to your concerns and puts a face on homeschooling. Possibly your representative has never met a homeschooler and has no idea what impact the proposed legislation will have upon your life.

When lobbying, remember the 5-10 rule. Five visits and ten letters from various constituents will usually convince a legislator to change his or her mind on an issue. Legislators know that for every visit or letter they receive, there are many more people with similar views who have not taken the time to contact them. Do not be shy about asking friends or relatives to call, write, or visit legislators.

Letters to elected officials should be concise and typed whenever possible. Make sure there are no errors in either grammar or spelling. State your position, elaborate on a point or two and summarize your argument. You may also want to ask a question or two that will require a personal response. When possible, avoid form letters; they are not as effective because it looks like one or two people have an agenda.

Often legislators reply to letters and phone calls with a form letter thanking you for your interest. Staff members keep tallies of phone calls pro and con. In Washington, DC., many issues are determined by the weight of the mail received on either side of the issue. This is why it is important to encourage others to write.

A visit to your local legislators office is a good way to establish a working relationship with your elected official and their staff. This visit can be a wonderful field trip and a lesson in government for your children. Your first visit need not be a serious encounter, just a "get acquainted" visit where you share your homeschool experience. After this, your family and their bright and shining faces will be permanently associated with homeschooling and related issues. Introduce yourself to staff members and build a relationship with them so when making calls in the future, you can ask for them by name.

Before you call or visit, make a list of the major points you wish to discuss. Never get angry or show anger. Most legislators can be won over by logically presented arguments and politeness. Be familiar with the bill, note who the sponsors are and what your talking points will be.

Prepare a list of the names, addresses, e-mails, and phone numbers of all your legislators (both the state and federal) and keep them by your phone. Then the information will be handy when issues arise. Remember, elected officials represent you!

Oppose H.B. 377

Your calls are needed to defeat H.B.377, a bill that will lower compulsory school attendance age in Pennsylvania from age eight to six. Please contact you state representative and ask him to contact members of the House Education committee to oppose H.B. 377. Lowering the compulsory attendance age erodes the authority of parents who are in the best position to determine when a child's formal education should begin. This bill would restrict a parent's freedom to decide when their child is ready for school.

Talking points:

- Many education experts have concluded that beginning a child's formal education too early may actually result in burn-out and poor scholastic performance later.
- Expanding the compulsory attendance age would result in a tax increase to pay for more classroom space and teachers to accommodate the additional students compelled to attend school.
- "It ain't broke, so don't fix it." Most parents are already placing their children in school. According to the Department of Education's Bureau of Educational Statistics only a small number of 6 and 7 year olds are not enrolled in school.
- Expanding the compulsory school age to 6 years of age forces developmentally delayed students to begin formal education before they are ready. Denying parents the ability to determine whether or not these children are prepared is a recipe for disaster. Some children need to stay at home for another year to mature.

Please note:

At the present time, this bill only applies to students residing in the Philadelphia School District but it is the first step toward the General Assembly expanding this requirement to all the school districts in Pennsylvania.

There is an exemption contained in this bill for homeschooling parents whose children are between the ages of 6 and 8. They would not have to comply with the homeschooling statute until their children reach the current compulsory age of eight. However, these parents would still have to notify the local school district that they would provide their child's education between ages 6 and 8. How the state would determine that a parent is providing this education has yet to be determined.

The bottom line: Lowering the compulsory attendance age erodes parental rights in making decisions that effect the educational preparedness of their children.

URGENT UPDATE

On April 4th, 2005, the House Education Committee passed HB377. Your calls are now needed to stop this bill which now moves to the full House of Representatives for a vote.