



January 17, 2012 – Special Edition

## St. Raymond's Respects Life

### Newsletter

*The newsletter of the Respect Life Committee of St.  
Raymond's Parish  
Springfield, VA*

*Liz Hildebrand, Chairperson*  
[straymondprolife@aol.com](mailto:straymondprolife@aol.com)

*Bob Laird, Newsletter Editor*  
[www.straymonds.org](http://www.straymonds.org)

---

**This is a special edition of the St. Raymond's Respects Life Newsletter. Several things have come up since the previous Newsletter and Father De Celles asked that we provide you with this information.**

**Virginia Legislative Alerts:** The Virginia General Assembly is now in session. [The Virginia Catholic Conference](#) has provided at least two legislative alerts to pass on to you. You can access them below.

**Taxpayers in Virginia Should Not Be Required to Fund Abortions:** Under the Medicaid program, the federal government funds abortions when the life of the eligible woman is at risk and in cases of rape and incest, and in no other cases. This restriction on federal funding of abortion (in place since 1976) is called the Hyde Amendment. States are permitted, but not required, to spend their own funds (with no federal match) for abortions that fall outside these three categories.

By funding abortions in cases of the fetus' physical deformity or mental deficiency, Virginia is among the minority of states that fund abortions beyond the Hyde Amendment circumstances. HB 62 (Delegate Cole) would repeal the state law that currently authorizes the Commonwealth to fund these non-federally-funded abortions. The result of enacting HB 62 would be to conform Virginia's policy to the federal Hyde Amendment. [Read more and take action.](#)

**Ban Embryonic Stem Cell Research:** Bill has been introduced and needs strong show of support! In a previous [informational alert](#), the [Virginia Catholic Conference](#) announced its push for a ban on embryonic stem cell research during the 2012 session. Now, a bill seeking that ban has been introduced by Delegate Ben Cline. This legislation, a top priority of the Conference, is expected to face stiff resistance and needs an especially strong show of support from constituents to their legislators. Please [click here](#) to view a pre-drafted (but editable) message that could be sent to your state House of Delegates member to urge his or her support for this bill. [After clicking the link in the previous sentence, you will need to scroll down and click "Send Message" in order for your Delegate to receive your message.] Please take action now!

**Bus Signup for March for Life:** Unsure about attending the March for Life next Monday? There are still 30 seats remaining for the buses that depart from St. Raymond's. Drop by the Narthex of the Church and be one of the 30 to sign up.

**Finally,** here is a video that everyone should see: <http://themorningspew.com/2012/01/13/the-video-that-every-pro-lifer-should-see/>.