

June 2, 2003

Most Rev. Roger J. Foys - Personal  
Bishop of Diocese of Covington  
422 Wallace Avenue  
Covington, Kentucky 41014

Your Excellency:

There has been some recent serious adverse developments affecting our efforts to obtain from the Northern Kentucky Independent Health District Board of Directors a reversal of its policy of dispensing abortifacients, including the standard birth control pill. These developments bring into question whether it is feasible for the pro-life members of that board to again move for a resolution to discontinue accepting Federal Title X funds, which mandates distribution of contraceptions and abortifacients to all, including even preteens girls, without the knowledge or consent of their parents.

Kenton County Judge/Executive Richard Murgatroyd, a Catholic, submitted to the Kenton County Board of Health, three (3) current members for reappointment to NKIHD. The pro-abortion nurse was approved by the Board of Directors of the Kenton County Health Department Board, while the pro-life advocates Dr. James Noll, DVM, and Mr. Joseph Bessler, a retired pharmacist, were rejected. It was obvious that the sole litmus test was the position of these three (3) current members on the issue of abortion.

NKRTL is encouraging Judge Murgatroyd, who has vacillated in his support of these efforts.

As we have explained in our early correspondences, the efforts of NKRTL, coupled with the efforts of those pro-life members of NKIHD's Board of Directors, to obtain a majority of votes to pass a resolution banning the acceptance of Federal Title X funds have peaked and our efforts now appear to be losing ground. As we also informed you previously, the window of opportunity to again bring up this resolution later on in the summer holds little promise unless there is a new, clear, and forceful voice entering the marketplace of ideas, one which can have a profound influence on elected officials.

It is the common opinion of those involved, both Catholic and non-Catholic, that unless you, as the spiritual leader of the Catholic community publicly, aggressively, and immediately espouse the Catholic teachings on the issues of contraception and abortion, there is little impetus for key Catholic office holders to adhere to the moral teachings of our Church.

It is the opinion even among non-Catholics, that unless the Catholic Church reminds the Catholic electorate that all abortions and all forms of contraception are intrinsically evil, then these Catholic politicians and these members of the medical community can escape the accountability for

the destruction of human life and the harm both individually and socially brought about by their support for and vote for these Federal Title X funds.

We were hoping that even after public statements are made, that you would meet with the elective officials and members of the health community who play key rolls in this decision, to encourage their adherence to the Judeo-Christian principle of the sanctity of all human life.

Since to date we have not yet heard whether you affirm the Statement of Principles, which NKRTL submitted to you months ago, we are unable to assure others involved, including non-Catholics, whether the position we espouse is shared by you. Even though the Catholic Church has clearly and consistently held that all abortions are morally unacceptable, and that all use of artificial contraception is morally unacceptable, it cannot be inferred that all of the Church's bishops, priests, administrators, personnel, employees, spokesmen, and religious orders, adhere to these teachings.

That is why we wait for your affirmation of these principles, especially those sections dealing with the intrinsic evil of artificial contraception and with those sections which acknowledge the well-accepted scientific fact that the so-called standard birth control pill does impede the implantation of the newly conceived child into the lining of the womb, thus resulting in the death of that child at a stage of life which the medical community refers to as "an embryo."

It is difficult to convince those involved to reverse the policy of NKIHD when the last public statement on this issue of the diocesan pro-life coordinator refers to Mrs. Barbara Black, two (2) days before the election, as being "pro-life." The diocesan position is taken to be that the continued efforts of Mrs. Black to fund contraceptions to teenage girls, both through the Kenton County Fiscal Court and through the NKIHD, does not contradict the teachings of the Church. Mrs. Black's position is perceived as being "pro-life" since this public statement of a diocesan official has not been corrected publicly.

Since there has been no change in the Church's personnel in key offices, such as *The Messenger*, the Pro-Life Commission, or the Family Life Office, it is difficult to convince those involved that any assistance will come from the local Catholic Church. We are forced to concede that the most likely scenario is that there will be again subtle opposition to our efforts from these sources.

Again we request your review of the Statement of Principles. If you have any suggestions or corrections, they would be appreciated. We pray that the above information is of assistance to you. We also hope to receive from you a response to our letter of April 16, 2003.

For the Northern Kentucky Right to Life Board of Directors,  
by its Executive Committee

Respectfully,

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cc: Fr. Paul L. Berschied  
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