



NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR A HUMAN LIFE AMENDMENT

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CAMPAIGN TO BAN HUMAN CLONING

INSTRUCTIONS • MARCH 29-30, 2003

NCLA

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WHY THIS CAMPAIGN IS NEEDED



Scientists, acting irresponsibly, are racing to produce human beings through cloning, either to bring the clones to live birth or to use them for experimentation and destruction before birth. Measures have been introduced in Congress authorizing human cloning for experimentation and destruction. In all this, little account is given to the assault that cloning presents to human dignity.

However, bills also have been introduced in Congress that would ban *all* human cloning.

On January 8, 2003, Representatives Dave Weldon (R-FL) and Bart Stupak (D-MI) introduced the Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2003 (H.R. 234) with 101 other original sponsors. (On February 5, 2003, this measure was reintroduced in a slightly modified form as H.R. 534.) Last year the House passed a similar measure 265 to 162. It is expected to approve the bill again this year.

On January 29, 2003, Senators Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Mary Landrieu (D-LA) introduced a companion bill in the Senate (S. 245) with 21 other original sponsors. The Senate declined to take up a similar bill last year. Passage in the Senate remains a challenge.

For this reason, the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment and the Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities are sponsoring a postcard and letter-writing campaign focused on the U.S. Senate. On the weekend of March 29-30, it is recommended that parishioners in 15 states sign postcards urging one or both of their senators to vote for the Brownback/ Landrieu Human Cloning Prohibition Act, S. 245. These 15 states are: Alaska, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Maine, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Texas, Virginia, West Virginia. Consult your Diocesan Pro-Life Office for the names of specific senators. In the other 35 states, it is recommended that parishioners receive an educational flier in which letter-writing and other forms of communication are encouraged.

PRAYER PLEDGE

Each day until the postcard project is conducted, please say a short prayer for God's blessing on the project and for God's assistance in establishing public policies respectful of the human person. Thank you!

PLAN AHEAD: GET YOUR PARISH EXCITED ABOUT THE POSTCARD PROJECT

The following instructions are designed to help the Parish Pro-Life Committee conduct an effective postcard project.

1. Meet with your pastor and obtain permission to conduct the project

- Arrange a meeting with your pastor as soon as possible.
- Explain what the program involves and its importance.
- Ask your pastor for permission to implement the program. Be sure the discussion concludes with an exact understanding between you and your pastor about what you are permitted to do.
- If the diocese has not already done so, set a date for the event. The nationally suggested weekend is March 29-30.
- Ask your pastor to address and instruct parishioners on the Sunday of the postcard event.
- Ask your pastor to distribute the "talking points" to other priests who will celebrate Mass in your parish that weekend (see Program Aids).
- Ask for permission to arrange a series of bulletin announcements the two weekends before the postcard event, as well as on the weekend of the event itself (see Program Aids).
- After your meeting, send a note thanking your pastor for his time and support. At the conclusion of the project, send the pastor a report on its success.

If your pastor has any questions you cannot answer, please refer those questions to your Diocesan Pro-Life Coordinator.

2. Other Steps to Increase Effectiveness

- Design a simple poster with key information about the event. Place posters in prominent locations such as the church building, school or parish hall, or rectory.
- Mobilize different parish groups to work on this project.

COORDINATING THE POSTCARD EVENT

The following straightforward guidelines will help ensure a successful postcard project in your parish.

You have been sent either a batch of single postcards or strips of two cards, as appropriate for your state. In some states only one senator receives a postcard, in other states both do. In most cases, the names and addresses of the senators are preprinted on the cards. Parishioners only have to sign the cards and include their address for a response.

Do not separate the postcard strips prior to distribution. Give them to parishioners as a *set*.

Be prepared to distribute the postcards at each Mass on the campaign weekend. There are two basic methods for doing so.

Method One – In the Pews

The postcards can be distributed, while your pastor, other celebrant, or designated lay person is addressing the congregation about the project (see “Talking Points” below).

In addition, distribute a few inexpensive pens (not pencils) to each pew.

Instructions to Parishioners

- 1) Ask parishioners to print their name and address on the back of the postcard(s) and sign them where indicated. Urge them to complete the card while in church. If they take the cards home, they may lose them or, despite their best intentions, may forget to sign them.
- 2) This project costs money. Ask each adult parishioner to donate 50 cents or \$1.00. Explain that the money will be used to buy stamps and defray other costs associated with the project.
- 3) Ushers should collect the signed postcards. Donations can be collected at the same time.

Note: If your postcards do not have the name(s) of your senator(s) preprinted, please include a request for parishioners to print the name(s).

Follow-up After Mass

Even though postcards are distributed and collected during Mass, be certain that there is a collection basket at every church exit for postcards and contributions not collected during Mass. One or more tables can be set up for this purpose. Educational materials also can be made available at these locations.

Method Two – After Mass

If postcards are not filled out during Mass, you can still facilitate a successful event by setting up tables where people can gather after Mass.

Announcement During Mass

The celebrant or designated lay leader should announce that today the parish is participating in a postcard campaign sponsored by the U.S. bishops. He or she should explain the reason for this project (see “Talking Points”).

Parishioners should be encouraged to sign postcards at the tables or other designated places after Mass.

Signing after Mass

At the end of each Mass, your signing tables should be staffed with volunteers ready to encourage and assist parishioners in signing postcards.

You must be prepared to accommodate large numbers of people in a short time. Be sure you have a sufficient number of tables.

Set up your tables in well-trafficked areas.

Make your tables as attractive and visible as possible. You may want to hang a banner above your tables, “Sign Postcards to Ban Human Cloning,” or similar wording.

Place baskets or containers on the tables for donations.

In addition to having postcards at the tables, place postcards and pens on clipboards and circulate them among people waiting in line and among those socializing after Mass. This is a particularly good activity for youth volunteers; they can easily approach the parents of their friends and other members of the parish.

Have several large boxes where people can drop the cards off before leaving church property. Identify the boxes clearly. Make them physically accessible.

The less effort people must make to find you, to stand in line, or to figure out what to do next, the more successful your postcard project will be!

EFFECTIVE FOLLOW-UP

After ushers or volunteers have collected the postcards and taken them to a central location, the Parish Pro-Life Coordinator must accomplish a few small tasks to successfully complete the project:

- 1) Count the postcards to each senator. Immediately record this information on the Parish Reporting Form found in the back of this instruction booklet.

Note: If the names of the senator(s) are not preprinted on the postcards, double check to make sure the names are filled in correctly.

- 2) Affix a 23-cent stamp to the upper right corner on the front of each postcard.
- 3) Mail the postcards at your local post office. *Mailing the postcards to your senators in a bulk container is not recommended.* People sign the cards as individuals. Bulk mailings downplay the personal dimension of the communication. When the postcards are mailed individually and directly to Members of Congress, it is more likely that people will receive a response from their senators.
- 4) Complete filling out the Parish Reporting Form and mail it to your Diocesan Pro-Life Office. This information will assist the diocesan office in evaluating the effectiveness of the campaign.
- 5) Thank those who helped you. It is important to acknowledge the efforts of volunteers by sending a short but gracious thank-you note or perhaps a phone call. Also, remember to thank all the priests who assisted in the project. Your report on the project's success can be included in your thank-you note to the pastor.

Also place a note in the parish bulletin thanking parishioners who signed postcards. Include a short report on the success of the project—the number of postcards sent, success stories, and the like.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP

Following the steps outlined in this manual will result in the widest possible mobilization of parishioners signing postcards and make a significant difference in our effort to promote the dignity of human life.

The National Committee for a Human Life Amendment and the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities are grateful for your help and your participation. God bless you in all you do.

MATERIALS AVAILABLE ONLINE

Copies of the postcard and the educational flier can be downloaded online from the internet at: nchla.org/postcard.htm. Materials are available in PDF format. If you do not have the PDF program, the web site contains easy instructions where that program can be downloaded free from the internet.

The postcard is generic in form. A space is provided on the card to fill in the senator's name. The postcard is available in English and Spanish.

The educational flier is also available in English and Spanish.

PROGRAM AIDS

English

Talking Points on a Human Cloning Ban

The following suggested text can be used by the celebrant or designated lay leader to announce that the parish is participating in a national postcard campaign and to explain why.

Most of us are aware of public discussions about human cloning. Recent concerns about attempts to clone the first human have only highlighted the visibility of the issue—and the need to do something about it.

That is why our parish is participating today in a national postcard campaign sponsored by the Catholic bishops of the United States.

The debate about human cloning can be confusing. New terms are used and often we are unsure what they mean. Some talk of “reproductive cloning” and “therapeutic cloning,” leaving the impression that these are two different methods of cloning. They are not. The exact same process is followed. A scientist takes genetic material from a body cell of one person and injects it into an egg; the egg is then stimulated to begin embryonic development. In every case, a new human life is generated.

Some would clone embryos to produce infants as “copies” of other human beings. Others would clone embryos and then use them as raw material for medical experiments. In this process, the new human life necessarily dies.

Yet, whatever the reason, human cloning is wrong.

Cloning dehumanizes human procreation and violates human dignity. Human lives are treated as nothing more than carriers of traits others find useful. Deliberately creating human embryos in order to exploit and destroy them is beneath us as a people and is an offense to our Creator.

The U.S. Mission to the United Nations put it this way: “Human cloning is... a giant step toward a society in which life is created for convenience, human beings are grown for spare body parts, and children are engineered to fit eugenic specification.”

The only effective and morally acceptable thing to do is to ban human cloning completely. A bill to do this has been introduced in Congress. The decisive vote on this measure is expected to take place in the U. S. Senate. That is why the

bishops are asking us to send postcards to Senator[s] _____ [and _____]. If each of us takes just a few moments to sign a postcard, together we can send a powerful message to our nation's Capitol. Please complete the card before leaving church. A small donation of 50 cents or \$1.00 will help pay for postage and cost of materials.

The postcards being distributed to you now contain this message: "Please support the Brownback/Landrieu Human Cloning Prohibition Act, S. 245, and oppose legislation allowing any human cloning."

Please feel free to add a short personal note on each postcard to increase the effectiveness of your message.

This nation must not allow human life and dignity to be further assaulted and exploited by human cloning. I thank you for making your voice heard on this important matter.

Español

Puntos a tratar sobre una prohibición a la Clonación Humana

El siguiente texto se sugiere para ser usado por el celebrante o líder laico designado, para anunciar que la parroquia está participando en una campaña nacional de envío de tarjetas postales, y explicar por qué lo hace.

La mayoría de nosotros está al tanto de los debates públicos acerca de la clonación humana. Las recientes preocupaciones en torno a los intentos por clonar al primer humano solamente han servido para destacar la visibilidad del asunto y la necesidad de hacer algo acerca del mismo.

Esa es la razón por la cual nuestra parroquia participa hoy en una campaña nacional de envío de tarjetas postales patrocinada por los obispos católicos de los Estados Unidos.

El debate acerca de la clonación humana puede ser confuso. Se emplean nuevos términos y, frecuentemente, no sabemos el significado de ellos. Algunos hablan de "clonación reproductiva" y de "clonación terapéutica", dejando la impresión de que se trata de dos métodos de clonación diferentes. Y no lo son. En ambos se sigue exactamente el mismo proceso. Un científico toma material genético de las células del cuerpo de una persona y lo inyecta en un óvulo; el óvulo es luego estimulado para que comience su desarrollo embrionario. En cada caso, se genera una nueva vida humana.

A algunos se les ocurriría clonar embriones para infantes como “copias” de otros seres humanos. Otros clonarían embriones para luego usarlos como materia prima para experimentos médicos. En este proceso, la nueva vida humana necesariamente moriría.

En cualquier caso, sea cual sea la razón, la clonación humana es un mal.

La clonación deshumaniza la procreación y viola la dignidad humana. Las vidas humanas son tratadas como simples portadores de rasgos que alguien encuentra útiles. Crear deliberadamente embriones humanos para explotarlos y luego destruirlos es indigno de nosotros como personas y una ofensa a nuestro Creador.

La Misión de Estados Unidos ante las Naciones Unidas lo explicó de esta manera: “La clonación humana es un paso gigante hacia una sociedad en la cual la vida se crea por conveniencia, se crían seres humanos para tomar partes del cuerpo y los niños son diseñados de acuerdo a especificaciones eugenésicas.”

La única cosa efectiva y moralmente aceptable que se debe hacer es prohibir completamente la clonación humana. Un proyecto de ley en este sentido ha sido introducido al Congreso. Se espera que el voto decisivo sobre esta medida tenga lugar en el Senado. Es por esto que los obispos nos piden enviar tarjetas postales al(los) senador(es) _____ y _____. Si cada uno de nosotros toma unos breves momentos para firmar una tarjeta postal, juntos podemos enviar un poderoso mensaje a nuestro Capitolio nacional. Por favor, complete la tarjeta antes de marcharse de la iglesia. Una pequeña donación de 50 centavos o \$1 ayudará a cubrir el costo de las estampillas de correo y los materiales.

Las tarjetas postales que tiene en sus manos contienen este mensaje: “Por favor, apoye el Brownback/Landrieu Human Cloning Prohibition Act, S. 245, y opóngase a legislación que permita cualquier tipo de clonación humana.”

Por favor, siéntase en libertad de añadir una breve nota personal en cada tarjeta, a fin de incrementar la efectividad de su mensaje.

Esta nación no debe permitir que la vida y la dignidad humana sean también asaltadas y explotadas por la clonación humana. Les agradezco que dejen que su voz se escuche en este importante asunto.

English

Sample Bulletin Announcements

Ideally, bulletin announcements should be placed in the parish bulletin on weekends leading up to the postcard event, and on the weekend of the event itself.

1. Two Weeks Before

MAJOR POSTCARD CAMPAIGN COMING TO OUR PARISH! In two weeks our parish will join Catholics around the country in sending a message to Congress: Please ban all human cloning. We will be urging Senator [or Senators] _____ to support the Brownback/Landrieu Human Cloning Prohibition Act (S. 245). Please plan to participate.

2. One Week Before

SIGN A POSTCARD! STOP HUMAN CLONING! Next weekend parishioners will have an opportunity to sign postcards asking Senator(s) _____ to support a bill banning all human cloning. Please plan to participate! For more information, please contact [name and phone number of parish coordinator].

3. Weekend of the Event

SIGN POSTCARDS BANNING CLONING! Today our parish will join with thousands of other parishes across the nation in signing postcards urging the U.S. Senate to pass a bill banning all human cloning. Stand up and be counted! Please sign a postcard! Thank you for speaking up for human dignity!

Español

Ejemplos de anuncios para el boletín parroquial

Lo ideal sería que los anuncios se coloquen en el boletín parroquial en los fines de semana previos a la campaña de las tarjetas postales, así como en el fin de semana de la campaña en sí.

1. Dos semanas antes

¡UNA IMPORTANTE CAMPAÑA DE ENVÍO DE TARJETAS POSTALES VIENE A NUESTRA PARROQUIA! Dentro de dos semanas nuestra parroquia se unirá a los católicos de todo el país enviando un mensaje al Congreso: Por favor, prohíban toda clonación humana. Urgiremos al senador [o senadores] _____ que apoye[n] el Brownback/Landrieu Human Cloning Prohibition Act, S. 245. Por favor, haga planes para participar.

2. Una semana antes

¡FIRME UNA TARJETA POSTAL! ¡QUE CESE LA CLONACIÓN HUMANA! La próxima semana los miembros de la parroquia tendrán la oportunidad de firmar tarjetas postales pidiéndole al(los) senador(es) _____ que apoye(n) el proyecto prohibiendo todo tipo de clonación humana. ¡Por favor, haga planes para participar! Para más información, contacte a [nombre y número de teléfono del coordinador parroquial].

3. Fin de semana de la Campaña

¡FIRME TARJETAS POSTALES PARA PROHIBIR LA CLONACIÓN! En el día de hoy nuestra parroquia se unirá a otras parroquias en toda la nación, firmando tarjetas postales que urgen al Senado de los Estados Unidos aprobar una ley prohibiendo todo tipo de clonación humana. ¡Diga presente y sea contado! ¡Por favor, firme una tarjeta postal! ¡Gracias por hablar a favor de la dignidad humana!

PARISH REPORTING FORM

Human Cloning Ban Campaign

Instructions to Parish Coordinator:

As soon as postcard signing is completed in your parish, please fill out this "Parish Reporting Form." Either photocopy it or cut it from this booklet, and return it to your Diocesan Pro-Life/Respect Life Office. Your prompt response will assist evaluation efforts.

Your Diocese _____

Your Parish/Organization _____ City _____

Your Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____ FAX _____

Email _____

1. How many postcards were sent to Senators from your parish? _____

NAME	NUMBER OF POSTCARDS
------	---------------------

Senator _____	_____
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Senator _____	_____
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Total postcards sent: _____

2. Use the reverse side of this form to share any comments you may have about this postcard campaign.

3. Please mail this form to your Diocesan Pro-Life/Respect Life Office.

THANK YOU
God bless you!

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