

**Vermont Right to Life Committee**  
**Year 2010 Candidate Questionnaire**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

**Party:** \_\_\_\_\_ **District:** \_\_\_\_\_ **House or Senate** (Circle one)

Currently, Vermont has no regulations or restrictions on abortion. There is no requirement that women be offered information about abortion prior to the procedure being done, and there is no parental involvement requirement before abortions are performed on minor girls. Nearly all abortions are performed in free-standing facilities, often by non-physicians.

The Vermont Right to Life Committee (VRLC) believes that unborn children should be protected by law, and that abortion should only be permitted if there is no other way to prevent the death of the mother. Furthermore, VRLC believes that until the day that all human life is protected under the law, public policy in Vermont should always encourage childbirth over abortion.

**1. Which one of the following five statements most closely represents your view?**

- (A) Abortion should not be legal in any case.
- (B) Abortion should not be legal except if necessary to prevent the death of the mother.
- (C) Abortion should be legal only in cases of rape, incest, or to prevent the death of the mother.
- (D) Abortion should be legal with some restrictions.
- (E) Abortion should be legal with no restrictions.

\_\_\_\_\_ A                      \_\_\_\_\_ B                      \_\_\_\_\_ C                      \_\_\_\_\_ D                      \_\_\_\_\_ E

**2. Do you consider yourself a “pro-life” candidate?**

\_\_\_\_\_ YES                      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Our goal is to understand each candidate’s position, beyond the labels of “pro-choice” and “pro-life.” The following questions pertain to legislative proposals that have been introduced in the Vermont Legislature or are expected to be considered in the future.

***Note:** On questions 3-10, a “yes” response indicates agreement with the position of VRLC.*

**Abortion Legislation**

**3. Do you support a parental notification requirement** before an abortion is performed on a minor girl, with special provisions for situations of abuse?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES                      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

Many women who undergo abortions will later regret that they were not given full information about their unborn children beforehand. Thirty-one state legislatures have passed informed consent laws that are in effect today, but Vermont has not.

**4. Do you support a Woman’s Right to Know law,** also known as “informed consent”, requiring that a woman receive written information about the medical risks associated with abortion, alternatives to abortion, and scientifically accurate medical facts about the development of her unborn child before an abortion is performed?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES                      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**Fetal Homicide Legislation**

When a pregnant woman is a victim of domestic violence, her life and the life of her unborn baby are at risk. In some U.S. cities, the leading cause of death for pregnant women is homicide.

In August 2009, the lives of twin babies were ended as the result of a head-on crash in Bennington caused by a driver who was on drugs and later pleaded guilty to gross negligent driving. Yet under current Vt. law, the driver could not be charged with harm caused to the twins because they were not born at the time of the crash. Federal law and the laws of 35 states recognize both the mother and her unborn child(ren) as victims in cases of criminal violence and negligence. Vermont has no such law.

**5. Do you support a state “Fetal Homicide” law** that would recognize both a pregnant woman and her unborn baby when they are victims of a crime?

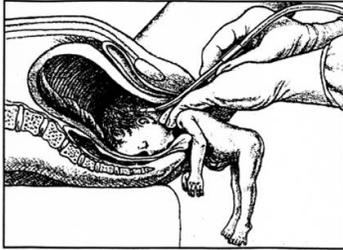
\_\_\_\_\_ YES                      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

**Partial Birth Abortion**

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

In a partial birth abortion, the abortionist delivered the baby feet-first until the entire baby's body was outside of the womb, except the head. He then punctured the baby's skull, inserted a suction tube, and removed the baby's brain. Most partial-birth abortions were performed in the fifth and sixth months of pregnancy, but some were performed even later. A federal law was passed in 2003 that bans this procedure. The ban was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2007 in its *Gonzales v. Carhart* decision.

Late Second and Third Trimester Partial Birth Abortion



The surgeon pulls the fetus into the breech position. He forces scissors into the skull, removes them and inserts a suction catheter through which he suctions out the skull contents.

Partial Birth Abortion (Intact D & E)

**6. Do you support the ban on partial birth abortions?**

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

**Taxpayer Funding of Abortion**

For over 30 years, the federal government has prevented the use of federal taxpayer funds to pay for abortions except in limited situations to protect the life of the mother or in a case of rape or incest. By court order, Vermont has been paying with state tax dollars for abortions performed for any reason for all women eligible for Medicaid and Dr. Dynasaur. If a state health care proposal to cover all Vermonters does not specifically exclude abortion from the definition of "health care", it will force state taxpayers to fund all elective abortions, even for those who can afford to pay.

**7. Do you oppose any further expansion of abortion funding with taxpayer dollars in Vermont?**

**Protection of Human Embryos**

VRLC opposes harvesting stem cells from living human embryos since the embryos are killed in this process. Currently, only research involving adult stems cells is producing successful results. Adult stem cells can be obtained in large quantities, and without causing harm to anyone, from sources such as bone marrow, cord blood, placentas, and even body fat.

**8. Do you support measures to prevent living human embryos from being used for medical experiments that would harm or kill them?**

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

**End of Life Issues**

The pro-life movement has always sought to protect not only the unborn from abortion, but also the vulnerable born, especially older or disabled people, from physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia.

**9. Do you oppose legalizing physician-assisted suicide in Vermont?**

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

**Conscience Protection**

In 1973, Congress acted to protect the right of health care providers to refuse to participate in the practice of abortion. Recently, those rights have come under attack at the federal level, with some arguing that doctors and nurses should be forced to participate in providing abortions. Vermont is one of three states that does not guarantee conscience protection for medical personnel.

**10. During consideration of a proposal to reform health care, would you support the inclusion of a conscience clause to protect medical personnel from being forced to participate in abortion?**

\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to write them here or on a separate page:

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**SUGGESTION: MAKE A COPY FOR YOUR FILES**

Please return to VRLC, PO Box 1079, Montpelier, VT 05601 by **September 5, 2010**
Thank you for taking the time to share your views with us.