

Georgia insight

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"She hath done what she could." Mark 14:8a

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Here We Go Again: Treating Symptoms & Condoning Behavior

H.B. 11 Vaccinations for 11- and 12-year-old Girls

World wide, cervical cancer is the second leading cause of death in women, killing 233,000 every year. Annually in the U.S. some 9,710 women get cervical cancer and 3,700 die from it. But don't despair! Federal funds will pay to inoculate 45 percent of girls in the U.S. and states will fund 55 percent. A bill for state funding is poised for introduction in Georgia.

H.B. 11 was pre-filed by Representative Judy Manning of District 32 to require health benefit insurance to pay for vaccinations against cervical cancer caused by HPV. PeachCare, Georgia's Medicaid program for children would provide funding. So, if this passes, our federal and state taxes will pay for an extremely expensive drug to allow minors to ignore moral training and be less worried when they engage in sexual activity that often causes cervical cancer from human pappalomavirus (HPV) the drug is supposed to prevent. *I.e.*, the behavior is allowed to condoned, while untold millions are spent to treat preventable cancer. This is the result when a culture loses its sense of propriety, rejects absolute values of right and wrong and government strips from parents their authority over sexually active children.

If H.B. 11 passes, health insurance policies would be rewritten to cover as many shots as is recommended at whatever intervals Merck and the CDC decide are sufficient. At \$360 for the three-shot course, Merck may have to buy its own armored car just to haul all that money to the bank and tax payers will be stuck with paying the bill.

Parents, do you want your 9-, 10-, 11-year-old daughters to be inoculated so they can be sexually active as soon as they're willing, without fear of contracting the strains of HPV that cause cervical cancer? Merck has developed a drug called Gardasil and the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's advisory committee wants 11- and 12-year-old girls to be vaccinated with it. In fact, the drug has been approved for 9-year-olds. Gardasil would be injected into the arm, at a cost of \$120 for each of three shots. The second shot should be two months after the first and the third four months after that.

Both males and females may contract HPV during hetero- or homosexual acts and even without symptoms, others can be infected *via* contact with skin or mucous membranes. Although HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease, it can be avoided by abstaining from sex. Merck and CDC are ready and willing to administer Gardasil to young girls as a proactive approach to the cancer often caused by certain HPV strains.

Almost 20 years ago I watched legislators abandon the tried-and-true methods of controlling venereal disease and embrace the "enlightened" approach. No longer would a preventable deadly disease be tracked, as was the custom. It would become a private matter never to be revealed to anyone, including spouses, without consent from the infected person. So, AIDS became a protected sexually transmitted virus, spreading unchecked with no cure in sight.

Look out, boys, you're next. They're just getting started with this new drug and there's a bundle of money to be made with it.

Following in those same footsteps is this proposed treatment of HPV, another highly contagious sexually transmitted disease that, though not as fatal as AIDS, *can and does* cause cervical cancer, as well as genital warts. Currently, some 20 million people have it. It's so rampant in America that 6.3 million *males and females* get a new genital HPV infection every year. Although it's a preventable disease transmitted by sexual contact, the emphasis is *not* on prevention by abstaining, but on prevention by administering Gardasil.

Remember that Clinton said, "It's the economy stupid!" Apply that to this and you'll see how profitable it is to discard our values. By the year 2010, Merck expects to scoop up \$4 billion in sales of Gardasil. So, rather than promote abstinence as the sure way to avoid HPV, experts want to vaccinate girls so they can "safely" be sexually active by the time they're 15.

ACTION – H.B. 11 was pre-filed, but had not been officially introduced at this printing. Legislators to contact will be available after the bill is officially introduced.

Parental Control in Serious Jeopardy

Recently, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that parents of public school children have *no* fundamental right to be the exclusive provider of sex education to their own children.

To better understand what's happening, I'll review decisions that have chipped away at parental authority over the rearing of children. When he was president, Bill Clinton signed the U.N. Treaty on the Rights of the Child and presidential wife Hillary headed the national Children's Defense Fund and chaired its board of directors for five years in 1986 to 1991. Although Clinton signed it, the U.S. Senate never ratified it. So, we're not bound by it.

When 176 foreign countries adopted the provisions of the U.N. Treaty on the Rights of the Child, they accepted its long list of absurd rights for children. After it was adopted by the United Kingdom, they were sternly reminded in 1995 that U.N. Article 12 was violated when parents withdrew children from parts of sex education, regardless of the children's wishes.

In recent months a Planned Parenthood course on abortion was put in public schools in Virginia, where the law stops short of allowing parents their right to decide what children are taught. Virginia law allows parents to opt their children out of *entire* courses, but they *cannot* opt their children out of specific *subjects* within the course.

Last year we finally won a five-year battle to notify parents of clubs and activities their children may join at school. Although that's better than nothing, parental permission to join whatever's available at school should've been passed without opposition or debate.

The disregard for parental rights has been imported from the U.N. and third-world countries – *all* intent on destroying the U.S. Parents have *really* lost their authority when a Georgia judge rules they have no right to interfere when an unmarried minor daughter's boyfriend climbs through her bedroom window to have sex while her parents sleep in the next room. The judge, not only rejected parental rights, he adopted international law giving children complete control over their lives. For goodness' sake, parents *must* recover that authority.

ACTION – Bills on parental consent may be introduced at any time. When they are, I'll keep you updated.

Removing Perks for Illegal Entry

Americans are being taken to the cleaners by illegal aliens who sneak across the border and sign up for every welfare benefit Americans provide for the needy. We've watched laws change to support illegal aliens as though they hadn't broken U.S. laws to get here. Since 2002 Georgia's population grew by 500,000 but 425,000 of those new comers are illegal aliens that settled in our state.

While the federal government drags its feet, Georgia and other states are trying to cut off the goodies they get by coming, such as free-for-the-asking health care. For example: on Saturday, August 20, 2005 Cobb County was the site of a Health and Job Fiesta for Latinos where 50 exhibitors offered services and jobs to those that came. The event was booked free of charge at Fair Oaks Recreation Center and advertised on Cobb County's Web site. No one was allowed to ask anyone's legal status so agencies, law enforcement and exhibitors could plead ignorance for doing business with illegal aliens or giving them jobs and social services.

On average, 102 illegal aliens come here every day. Between 2000 and 2002 Georgia's Hispanic population grew faster than anywhere in the U.S. In Dawson County Hispanics increased 59 percent and in Gwinnett County Hispanics became 13 percent of the entire population, the highest in Georgia. The cost of teaching non-English speaking students caused Gwinnett to increase taxes in 2002 for the first time in eight years.

Six times more immigrants enroll in welfare programs than do native-born Americans and 33 percent more immigrants use Medicaid than do native-born Americans. Georgia's \$67 million cost of teaching English as a Second Language is largely used for children of illegal aliens whose legal status is *not* questioned. In 2004 H.B. 1325 passed giving non-citizens HOPE scholarships. U.S. citizens must pay out-of-state tuition if students go to colleges outside their home state, but illegal aliens pay in-state tuition to attend college wherever they choose.

H.B. 72 as introduced by Representative Burke Day of District 163 to require colleges and universities to gather student visa data and report students that are supposed to enroll but don't or don't go to class after they enroll or withdraw from school or otherwise violate their visas. If this should pass, the "don't ask, don't tell" attitude about citizenship would stop and students with expired visas would not be accepted into college or would be expelled when their visa expires. Administrators failing to report violations would be guilty of malfeasance of office and their institutions could lose state funding and federal money if it's funneled through the state.

Federal law requires free education through high school, regardless of legal status. But college is another matter. H.B. 72 could fix that big problem. Although this bill about colleges and universities should have gone to the Higher Education Committee, it went to the House Education Committee where it'll have a tough time getting passed. But, let's do what we can to make H.B. 72 into law.

ACTION – Support. Call Education Committee Representatives Coleman, 404 656-9210; Millar, 656-5064; Benton, Keown, and Setzler, 656-0177; Casas, Reese, and Talton, 656-0254; Dickson, Houston, Jamieson and Williams, 656-0202; Everson and Williams, 656-0188; Holt, 656-0152; Jones, 463-2247; Lindsey and Teilhet, 656-0298; Maxwell, 656-3904; Sellier, 656-0265; Carter, Stanley-Turner and Thomas, 656-0325; Jordan, 656-0116; Kaiser, 656-0265; Reece, 656-7859; Morgan, 656-1009; Sims, 656-0152.

S.B. 26, Alcohol Sales on Sunday

Several years ago the General Assembly overturned Hall County's law against selling liquor at automobile races because someone said the poor man who owns the stadium needs the cash he could raise by selling alcoholic beverages. A subsequent session legalized the sale of liquor by the drink in Stone Mountain Park.

S.B. 26 introduced this session would further expand retail sales of alcohol by making it legal to sell seven days a week instead of six. Senator Harp wants to legalize the Sunday sale of beer, ale and wine. To get that done, S.B. 26 must pass so local government could pass ordinances or resolutions that voters will pass or reject in a referendum on election day. If voters pass it, licensed retailers in that jurisdiction could sell malt beverages and wine on Sunday.

That might make a lot of people a lot of money, but alcohol is already involved in far too many deaths and injuries. Consider these statistics. In 2004 *forty-one-percent* of the 1,672 people who died in single-vehicle *motorcycle crashes* had a blood alcohol content of .08 or higher, but that percentage was even higher on weekend nights when *60 percent* of *those killed* in single-vehicle crashes had that same blood level of alcohol. For *all* vehicle crashes during the week in 2004, 30-percent were alcohol-related and on weekends 51 percent involved alcohol.

Let me explain something else. Impairment is not determined by the *type* of drink, but by the amount of alcohol ingested over a specific period of time and only time will sober a person up. Things like drinking strong coffee, exercising or taking a cold shower won't help.

Beer is the chosen drink for most heavy drinking, binge drinking, underage drinking, drunk driving and people cited for D.U.I. A standard alcoholic drink is defined as 12 ounces of beer or 5 ounces of wine or 1.5 ounces of 72-proof distilled spirits, because each of those drinks taken in those amounts contain the same amount of alcohol, about .54 of an ounce.

Drinking beer causes 80-percent of alcohol-related fatalities. The remaining 20-percent are caused by liquor and wine. About 40 percent of all crimes, both violent and non-violent, are committed under the influence of alcohol. About three in every ten Americans will be involved in alcohol-related crashes at some time in their lives. Statistics for holidays in 2004 reveal these (pardon the pun) sobering facts. On New Year's Day 68.9 percent of all fatalities were alcohol-related. On Super Bowl Sunday it was 63.7 percent, on Halloween it was 54 percent and Labor Day came in fourth with 50.7 percent.

Even package stores owners, employees and lobbyists don't want this bill. They want to continue taking Sundays off to rest and be with their families. Killing this bill will do at least two good things. It will honor Sunday and protect the population.

When Senator Seth Harp introduced S.B. 26 January 22nd, it was assigned to Senator David Shafer's Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee.

ACTION – Oppose. Contact Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee Senators Shafer, Ch., 656-0048; Johnson, 656-5109; Harbison, 656-0074; Henson, 656-0085; Hill, 656-5038; Murphy, 656-7127; Seabaugh, 656-6446; Stoner, 463-2518; Thomas, 463-7784; Tolleson, 656-0081; Williams, 656-0089.

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