

Georgia insight

Sue Ella Deadwyler
www.georgiainsight.org
"She hath done what she could."
Mark 14:8a
"...and having done all ... stand."
Ephesians 6:13c

Action ALERT! Lame Duck Session Considering UN Treaty

Treaties ratified by the U.S. Senate supersede the Constitution of the United States, become the law of the land and nullify contradictory federal and state laws, rules, regulations and policies.

A September 20, 2012 letter to Senator Majority Leader Harry Reid and Republican Leader Mitch McConnell was signed by 36 U.S. Senators, who requested that the Senate refrain from considering treaties in the congressional lame duck session – the period between the November election and the January 20, 2013 inauguration. They, further, informed the Leaders that the 36 cosigners of the letter would “oppose efforts to consider any treaty during this time period.”

On November 27th, despite that letter, the Senate voted 61-36 to take up the U.N. Convention (treaty) on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). It was discussed, but not voted on.

Why should anyone who is not disabled be concerned? CRPD seems to apply only to disabled individuals. However, the U.N. could intervene in *any* family or group that includes a person with a disability, defined as a long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment that may hinder full and effective participation in society on an *equal basis* with others.

On August 14, 2012, WND Radio quoted U.S. Senator Jim DeMint (R-S.C.) as follows:

*“...another U.N. treaty that **threatens American sovereignty** has been put back on the table by foreign diplomats and their internationalist allies in the federal government. It’s called the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Disabled, which calls for government agents to supersede the authority of parents of disabled children and even covers abortion.”*

Fact: CRPD allows disgruntled children to bypass parents and complain directly to the U.N.

- Disabled minors or adults could bypass family and U.S. law to complain directly to the U.N.
- Decisions for disabled children and adults would be under U.N. control and global values.
- Complaints could be made by or on behalf of individuals or groups that claim victim status.
- After a complaint, the planned remedy (using U.N. rules) must be reported in six months.
- The U.N. would be authorized to mandate immediate changes, even during the six months.

Fact: If CRPD is ratified, the U.N. Convention on Rights of the Child (CRC) would be next.

A mother’s report from a country enforcing CRC: “*The rights of the child is insanity...when our daughter was 12 or 13 she ran away to the streets of ??????? We were told this was her right and it was her choice to be there. ...I was told if I grabbed her from the streets or forced her to come home against her will, I could have been charged with kidnapping her...which could have sent me to jail. You have no idea what this does to a family. ...there is much more to my story than this...but it gives you a little idea of how it takes the parents’ rights away so completely...and how much damage it does to that child. ...It is a parent’s worst nightmare.*”

ACTION – Oppose ratification of CRPD and other U.N. treaties. Contact Georgia’s two U.S. Senators as follows:

- **Senator Saxby Chambliss:** Toll-free in D.C., 1 800 234-4208; Savannah, 912 232-3657, fax 912 233-0115; Augusta, 706 738-0302, fax 706 738-0901; Macon, 478 741-1417, fax 478 741-1437; Atlanta 770 763-9090, fax 770 226-8633; Moultrie, 229 985-2112, fax 229 985-2123; Washington, D.C., 202 224-3521, fax 202 224-0103
- **Senator Johnny Isakson:** Toll-free in D.C. 1 877 851-6437 (Ask for his office.); Atlanta, 770 661-0999, fax 770 661-0768; Washington, D.C., 202 224-3643, fax 202 228-0724

June 28, 2012: A Fateful Day for the U.S.A.

On June 28, 2012, four liberal U.S. Supreme Court Justices – Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor – joined Chief Justice John Roberts in a startlingly unexpected 5-4 vote that upheld the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act, better known as Obamacare.

That Supreme Court ruling struck down the section of Obamacare that required states to expand Medicaid or lose their federal Medicaid funding. Medicaid is a government funded health care system for the needy, aged, blind, disabled and poor families with children. That ruling protects the sovereign rights of states to continuing making state-specific Medicaid decisions.

Chief Justice Roberts based his upholding of Obamacare on the notion that the failure-to-comply penalty, actually, functions like a tax, although the Obama administration “sold” it to Congress as a noncompliance penalty, NOT a tax. Effective in 2016, refusal to purchase federal-government-approved health insurance will cost individuals another \$695 per year and families an additional \$2,085 per year or 2.5% of the household income, whichever is larger.

Voting against Obamacare were Justices Samuel Alito, Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Anthony Kennedy, who had been considered the swing vote but voted with conservatives. Justice Kennedy’s biting dissent explained the overt judicial activism of the other five Justices:

“The majority [the five justices voting for Obamacare] rewrites the statute Congress wrote. ...What Congress called a penalty, the court calls a tax. The Affordable Care Act now must operate as the court has revised it, not as Congress designed it.”

Georgia U.S. Congressman Paul Broun is a physician who opposes the ruling. The following excerpts are from his statement:

Today is a sad day for liberty. The Court’s misguided decision is an attack on freedom, an insult to our Constitution, and it will ultimately destroy the best healthcare system in the world. ...As a physician, I can tell you that if Obamacare takes full effect – patients won’t be able to afford health insurance, medical practices will be controlled by the government, employers will stop providing coverage for their workers and Medicare and Medicaid recipients will be left high and dry.

I will continue working to completely repeal Obamacare. ...More than fifty percent of Americans think that members of Congress who are doctors and nurses should write new healthcare legislation, and that’s exactly what I’ve been working on in Washington. ...My OPTION Act will make healthcare cheaper for everyone, provide coverage for all Americans, and save Medicare from going broke. ...I will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of Georgians and all Americans until something like it passes.

Governor Nathan Deal said on June 28th that he would not rush to implement Obamacare in Georgia, but “would probably be in a holding pattern” until after the election and may ask for more time to decide whether to set up an exchange. November 16th was the original deadline for states to report their plans concerning exchanges, but that has been extended. See page 2.

ACTION – Thank Governor Deal for working against health exchanges. His Capitol number is: 404 656-1776.

Thank Cong. Paul Broun for working to repeal Obamacare. D.C. toll-free, 1 877 762-8762; GA, 1 706 549-9588.

Since That Fateful June 28th

With state health exchange reports due only ten days after the November election, governors asked the Obama administration for additional time to report the requested blueprint for their state exchange plans. The extension was granted November 15th and December 14th became the deadline for states to submit (a) a letter of intent and (b) an application to operate a state health exchange, accompanied by a detailed blueprint of its proposed operation.

Further, Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said, “States may also apply to operate their exchange in partnership with the federal government by Feb. 15, 2013. And a state may apply at any time to run an exchange in future years.”

Health exchanges are defined as “complex marketplaces meant to offer working families private insurance at federally subsidized rates.” So, beginning in 2014, Obamacare requires mandatory health insurance policies to be sold through government-controlled health insurance exchanges. Individuals and families who do NOT participate voluntarily will be forced to pay the federal government an annual penalty of hundreds and thousands of dollars.

On November 16, 2012 *FoxNews.com* reported that 20 states had decided NOT to implement their own exchanges. Georgia is one of those states. Governor Deal’s November 16th letter to HHS Secretary Sebelius explained his position. The following are excerpts from his letter:

As you know, I remain concerned with the one-size-fits-all approach and high financial burden imposed on states by this federal mandate. Therefore, the state of Georgia:

- *Will not pursue a state-based exchange*
- *Will not operate its own reinsurance program*
- *Will maintain separate small group and individual insurance markets*
- *Will continue to define “small group employer” as up to 50 employees for the purposes of the small group insurance market.*

The State of Georgia takes seriously its legal authority over the state’s Medicaid program. We will continue to determine eligibility for all individuals seeking Medicaid in our state.

Lawsuit: Religious Liberty v. Obamacare

“Our fight against ObamaCare is far from over.”

– Mat Staver, Liberty Counsel Founder and Chairman

On Monday, November 26th the Supreme Court ordered the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Virginia to reconsider Liberty University’s argument that Obamacare violates the school’s religious freedom. The 2010 suit was blocked on jurisdictional grounds. The Supreme Court used lawsuits filed by 26 states and the National Federation of Independent Business to uphold Obamacare, then rejected all other pending appeals, including Liberty’s.

During the writing of Obamacare, the Department of Health and Human Services included the full range of contraceptives, including abortion-inducing drugs, among the mandatory women-specific preventive services insurers must provide with no cost to the women. That mandate will force many religious employers to pay for morally objectionable products and services, thereby violating the conscience rights and religious liberty of Americans.

ACTION – Pray that the 4th Circuit Court rules that sections of Obamacare violate religious freedom.

Horse Racing and More Gambling for Georgia?

“Pathological gambling is extremely incapacitating and results in failure to maintain solvency or provide basic support for one’s family.”

– American Psychiatric Association

When gambling expands, government expands.

More **police** are hired to investigate and prosecute increased crime; more **judges and courts** are needed to investigate and prosecute gambling addicts’ crimes; more **welfare** programs are needed to support gambling-related poverty; more **agencies** are created to monitor and regulate gambling; more **medical services** are needed to treat diseases of addicted gamblers; and more **laws** are needed to control crime and money launderers.

H.R. 1, prefiled November 15, 2012 by Representative Geisinger, proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize horse-racing and pari-mutuel betting. If H.R. 1 gets a two-thirds vote in the General Assembly, the question of legalizing horse-racing and pari-mutuel betting would be on the November 2014 General Election and a simple majority vote could pass it.

Formerly, horse-racing proposals originated and died in the House. The Senate is interested now. The Study Committee on Horse Racing met for two hours November 27th to hear pro and con arguments from lobbyists, with pro speakers outnumbering the cons. The committee could listen but could not act, officially, until the session begins in January.

A Georgia Horse Racing Coalition member said 43 states already allow pari-mutuel betting and 36 states have live horse racing, but he didn’t report that horse-racing **flopped** in Alabama.

He cited a GSU study projection that gambling on horse races would increase tax revenue by \$50 million per year, plus additional payroll and sales taxes. To that, Senator Davis asked proponents to be sure the \$50 million would not include money from casino gambling.

Opposing the referendum is Brunswick Senator William Ligon, who wonders how many voters would support horse racing if it, simply, siphoned lottery funding from the HOPE scholarship program, which is already suffering revenue shortfalls. No response was reported.

Gambling is NOT harmless!

- The annual loss in fraud by pathological gamblers is \$1.32 billion.
- The cost per pathological gambler each year is \$13,586.
- The suicide rate of pathological gamblers is one in five (20 percent).
- 65 percent of pathological gamblers commit crimes to support their gambling habit.
- One-fourth of gamblers lose their jobs due to gambling.
- 28 percent of pathological gamblers file for bankruptcy or are in debt \$75,000 to \$150,000.
- Players with family incomes under \$10,000 bet almost triple the amount of \$50,000 earners.
- The rate of divorce for problem gamblers is nearly double the rate for non-gamblers.

Medical authorities classify compulsive gambling as a disease that affects eight to 12 million addicts – the same as alcoholics, but significantly more than drug addicts. The suicide rate of spouses of compulsive gamblers is 150 times higher than the national average. Compulsive gamblers commit about 40 percent of white collar crime; and almost 20 percent of wife abuse cases. Of compulsive gamblers, 20 percent are women and another 20 percent are teenagers.

ACTION – Oppose. Contact the Study Committee on Horse Racing: Senators Jack Murphy, Ch. 404 656-7127; Chip Rogers, 404 463-1378; William Ligon, 404 656-0045; Ronnie Chance, 404 651-7738 and Hardie Davis, 404 656-0340.

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