

Tanaiste Mary Harney, TD

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Dear Ms Harney,

As Minister for Health, you will be aware that the CAHR issued their report in MMM of 2005 and Government is now considering their recommendations. I believe that the CAHR's report does not reflect the pro-life ethos held by the majority of Irish people. In particular, I ask you as Minister for Health to consider the following:

- The human embryo deserves legal protection from the moment of conception. Denying that protection leaves early human life open to many abuses.
- The human embryo, whether created for IVF purposes or otherwise, should not be used for the purposes of scientific research or for bio-technological purposes.
- Stem-cell harvesting is not a justification for the destruction of the human embryo, since the end cannot justify the means. Furthermore, adult stem cells, derived from the patient requiring therapy are proving more successful than embryonic stem-cell harvesting.
- The Irish Medical Council outlaws the destruction of the human embryo. Article 40.3 protects the right to life of the unborn child. Any legislation dealing with assisted human reproduction issues should reflect this ethical and legal position.
- In Vitro Fertilisation is heralded as a panacea for childless couples. The procedure has a low success rate – averaging 16% live births in a costly and traumatic experience. It also carries inherent risks for the mother and the child. Further research should be conducted into this area before further legislation and funding are considered.
- All fertility treatments should in any case, be restricted to the family based on marriage.
- Cloning of the human embryo should be outlawed. No distinction should be made between therapeutic and reproductive cloning.

The CAHR recommendations, if adopted by the government, would make Ireland one of most liberal countries in the world in relation to embryo abuses. I ask you to ensure that the pro-life ethos of the Irish people is respected and upheld and that human life is legally protected from conception, to ensure the prevention of its manipulation, abuse or deliberate destruction.

I await your response,

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