

New Hampshire Right to Life

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June 12, 2005

Warren Henderson
NHGOP Chairman
134 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Henderson:

Republican Abraham Lincoln often said, “a house divided cannot stand” when referring to the imminent Civil War. Does not the same hold true for the Republican Party in general and the NHGOP in particular? Are we going to be a party of apathy, ambiguity, and abstraction until all we stand for is trying to get a “-R” after every name? Or are we going to be a party of leadership, distinction, and focused purpose?

First, some context. It took years for New Hampshire’s pro-life Republicans to get the pro-life plank into the NHGOP Platform. It first passed in 1996 and has withstood all attempts at the NHGOP Conventions to remove it. Similarly, the Lambert Amendment (seeking to prohibit NHGOP funding of candidates who refuse to support a ban on partial birth abortion) first passed in 1998. It too has survived all tepid attacks. I know about these matters from 12 years as GOP Town Chairman, 10 years as a NHGOP Convention Delegate, and 6 years as a NH Republican State Committee member. Many more pro-life Republicans are experienced, involved with the Party, and determined to restore the legal right to life.

Yet the Lincoln Party remains divided against itself. The earnest, diligent work of our friend, Margaret Svenson, has revealed that a new level of scheming hypocrisy has infected the Party...indeed the very Executive Committee. She found that during the recent legislative hearings over SB-30, the so-called “Emergency Contraception Act, one Maura Weston gave testimony in support of the abortifacient drugs. She did so as a duly registered and presumably well paid lobbyist for Barr Pharmaceuticals, Inc. of Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey. Barr Laboratories makes the “Plan B” drug specifically for so-called “emergency contraception”. In fact, Barr markets some 20 “contraceptive” drugs. Plan B is a known abortifacient by virtue of “inhibiting implantation of a fertilized egg”, according to the Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (not an organization friendly to pro-lifers).



An Associate of American Life League, Inc.

The assertion of this letter, therefore, is that Maura Weston:

1. Knew that she was on the Executive Committee of the NHGOP.
2. Knew that the NHGOP pro-life plank stands against abortion and abortifacient drugs.
3. Knew that as a NHGOP Executive Committee member she wielded some influence over the distribution of NHGOP funding of candidates during election cycles.
4. Knew the abortifacient nature of the Plan B drug she lobbied and testified for (or should have known due to client research/education and due to hearing the testimony of pro-lifers about it).
5. Knew there was a conflict of interest between her client's position and the NHGOP position.
6. Knew that some Republican legislators who witnessed her testimony supporting SB-30 were past recipients of NHGOP funding, and stood to obtain additional NHGOP re-election funds.

Maura did not, of course, forfeit her personal freedom of speech when she joined the NHGOP Executive Committee and I am not accusing her of anything illegal. Nor am I ignorant of Maura's many resourceful contributions to the NHGOP over the years. However, her betrayal of fidelity to what the NHGOP stands for justifies my insistence that she cease the charade of holding a position of leadership and authority on the Executive Committee. If she cannot be entrusted with defending the lives of innocent unborn children, how can she be trusted with additional Party responsibilities? Abortifacient drugs, including Plan B, are human pesticides in direct violation of both national and state Party principles. I hasten to point out that Section II of the NHGOP Platform includes:

"The foremost convictions that distinguish our Party in New Hampshire are:

- *Electing Republican candidates who uphold the highest standards of integrity, morality, ethics, responsibility and accountability in their personal lives, during campaigns and while performing their official duties.*
- *Recruiting republican candidates who uphold the proud and highest traditions of our party and its platform, which is essential to the future of our Party"*

Article II, Section 4 (D) of the NHGOP Bylaws apparently empowers you, Chairman Henderson, to appoint or fire Maura if she declines to resign from the NHGOP Executive Committee. Consequently, NH Right to Life, by a June 10, 2005 unanimous vote of our Trustees, formally requests the resignation or firing of Maura Weston from the Executive Committee of the NHGOP. We look to you for decisive action.

This is about whether the NHGOP tolerates traitors to core Republican values on the Executive Committee. Our Party cannot lead a nation to be more respectful of innocent life if we cannot even lead our own Party in that direction. I reject the "Big Tent" cliché because Abraham Lincoln's Executive Committee would not keep a paid consultant for Big Slavery, Inc. on board.

Let Republicans stand in the gap against a most wretched and barbarous culture where women are tempted to kill their own flesh and blood both surgically and chemically. It is deadly obvious where the Democrats sulk. Let Republicans stand for heartfelt compassion for both moms and babies by honestly embracing the long-standing pro-life plank in both leadership and in financing of campaigns. Purge the division so a unified Party can help make abortion as just as repulsive to America as genocide, infanticide, prostitution, cannibalism, virgin sacrifice, and slavery.

I request the courtesy of a formal reply, and all minutes from all GOP meetings concerning this matter.

Best regards,

Ed Holdgate
NH Right to Life President

ps. Precious few people realize that the "house divided" quote Lincoln used was from Matthew 12:25, Mark 3:25, and Luke 11:17.