

**500 word ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 85**

to appear in the **Official Voter Information Guide**

for the California General Election, Tuesday, November 4, 2008

It's time to close the loophole in California law that allows minor girls to be taken for secret chemical or surgical abortions by anyone – *even an adult male who impregnated her -- WITHOUT THE DOCTOR NOTIFYING ANY FAMILY MEMBER*. These predators can even take girls out of school to hide their crimes.

*Sarah was only 15 when she had a secret abortion. Within days a high fever set in. No one knew why, or how seriously ill she was. By the time she was hospitalized and doctors determined she had a deadly infection from a torn cervix, it was too late. Sarah died. Had someone in her family known about the abortion, Sarah's life could have been saved.*

Proposition 4 -- Sarah's Law -- would require doctors to notify a parent or, in case of parental abuse, *another adult family member*, such as a grandparent, aunt, or sister, before performing an abortion on a girl under 18. Parental consent is not required, but an adult who cares about her can help her understand all options, ensure competent care, and provide her medical history.

Over the past twenty-five years, more than thirty states have enacted laws

similar to Proposition 4. *THESE LAWS REDUCE TEEN PREGNANCIES AND SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES, WITHOUT DANGER OR HARM TO MINORS.*

Medical professionals and lawmakers know *children are safer when a family member knows of their medical situation* and is informed about risks to their health and safety. New California law requires a parent to provide written consent in person before a minor can use a tanning salon . . .

Yet a young girl can get an abortion *WITHOUT A FAMILY MEMBER BEING NOTIFIED* – and this could endanger her safety, *even her life.*

*WHEN ABORTIONS ARE KEPT SECRET, ADULT SEXUAL PREDATORS GO FREE.* Sarah's Law will protect young victims of sexual crimes.

*Planned Parenthood performed an abortion on a 14-year-old and then, at the request of the male predator who brought her in, gave her a shot of Depo-Provera so he could have sex with her again right away.*

*ABORTION PROVIDERS AREN'T REPORTING THESE CRIMES TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.* Family members will!

*Planned Parenthood failed to report the sexual abuse of a 13-year-old*

*brought for an abortion by the 23-year-old who raped her. After the secret abortion, the same man impregnated her again, and she had a second abortion.*

Sadly, the list of victims of secret abortions continues to grow. Without Sarah's Law, most parents won't know their minor daughter is seeking an abortion.

*SECRECY ENABLES ABUSE TO CONTINUE*, even abuse inside the home.

Sarah's Law will protect vulnerable girls by ensuring abuse is reported and putting their health and safety first.

*DON'T LET YOUNG GIRLS LIKE SARAH FACE THE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL RISKS OF SECRET ABORTIONS ON THEIR OWN – or worse yet, COERCED BY A SEXUAL PREDATOR!*

Join doctors, nurses, teachers, parents, and law enforcement officials who urge you to protect our daughters and stop child predators by *VOTING YES on PROPOSITION 4!*

<http://www.yeson4.net/> [www.YESon4.net](http://www.YESon4.net)

word count – 498

**THE HONORABLE BARBARA ALBY**, Author of California's "Megan's Law"

Child Protection Legislation

**JOSEPH R. ZANGA, M.D., FAAP**, Past President, American Academy of

Pediatrics

**THE HONORABLE TONY RACKAUCKAS, J.D.**, District Attorney, Orange

County