



Wednesday, November 18th at 6:30
Democratic Club of West Orange County
Green Valley Community Center
17250 Los Jardines West, Fountain Valley
Celebrate the Signing of
the Matthew Shepard Hate Crimes Act
with PFLAG



Representatives from Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) will be speaking at our November meeting. The mission of this group is to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender person's.

Their vision is to celebrate diversity in a society that em-

braces everyone, including those of diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. Their belief is that only with respect, dignity and equality for all can we reach our full potential as human beings, individually and collectively.

The organization began as a small support group for gays. In 1973 at their first meeting they had 20 attendees. Today PFLAG has 500 chapters and over 250,000 members.



There are two chapters in Orange County. One chapter meets in Laguna Woods and serves the South County and one chapter meets in Orange. For more information, visit www.ocpflag.org/

What's Wrong With Our Media? An Example

You probably haven't heard about the Santa Ana-based American Police Force (APF), also known as American Private Police Force which received—and then backed out of— a lucrative contract to run a private jail, fill the jail with prisoners, provide police services and/or provide police training services at a now-empty jail in Hardin, MT.

Even though this is a Santa Ana based company, the local press hasn't covered the story. But Talking Points Memo has the story about the questionable Montana deal, supposed ties to Blackwater, Glen Beck, and driving big, black Mercedes around with Hardin Police Department lo-

gos. Oh, and the Montana Attorney General has filed a suit asking them to prove claims on their website.

APF has withdrawn from this contract after investigative reporters revealed that front man, Serbian immigrant Michael Hilton, has a criminal record and that some APF claims about its jail proposal were bogus. APF spokesperson said "Hardin, Montana deserves a less controversial partner." No kidding. But why don't we hear about this here when the key player is in our back yard?

Talking Points—Rich Gillock

Our Government, the one run by Democratic President Barack Obama, with a Democratic Congress, has just released the following report: “H1N1 Flu: A Guide for Community and Faith-Based Organizations.”

So when did fighting a potential flu pandemic like swine flu morph into a matter of religion? Has our “secular government” decided that the “un-churched” should “eat pigs and die?”

It seems that “religious correctness” has become the new watch word in politics. The fanatics of the religious right have cowed the government and the public into giving them a pass when it comes to rational behavior and intellectual debate.

While the Bush administration openly endorsed religious fanaticism, the Obama administration seems to just let it fester and grow as a cancer on our society. With a stroke of his pen he could have reversed the un-Constitutional executive order that President Bush put in place that allows the government to fund religious institutions to provide government services while they freely discriminate both in hiring and to whom they dispensed services. He didn't.

Instead he appointed a Pentecostal Minister, Joshua DuBois, to head his re-named Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. If you are unfamiliar with the Pentecostal religion, just think of John Ashcroft and Sarah Palin. These are people who “speak in tongues” to show that God is communicating through them.

Obama's executive order creating the OFBNP prohibits religious groups from discriminating while providing services, but still allows them to discriminate in hiring. In addition, every cabinet level organization from State to Defense still has an Office of Faith Based Initiatives. Religious organizations are still being allowed to penetrate every executive office of government. Those who thought the bad old days of Bush as “pastor in chief” were over were disappointed from the outset. At his Presidential Inauguration, Obama invited one of the most homophobic preachers from Orange County, Saddleback Church's Rick Warren, to give the invocation. This was a signal that Gays and Lesbians were not part of Obama's vision for America if it interfered with his need to “bring people together.”

So how did that work out?

Well it didn't gain him any support from Republicans, or the religious right, to tend to those who are sick and in

need. You know, the Health Care Reform Act? SCHIP?

While President Obama actually invokes god in his speeches more often than his predecessor, it is hard to pin down just what religion he associates with. He used to be a member of Trinity United Church of Christ, a generally progressive denomination in Chicago, until his pastor, Rev. Jeremiah Wright became too politically charged to associate with.

Now Obama attends services at Camp David where Navy Chaplain Carey Cash presides, and where You-Tube videos won't be made. Lt. Cmdr. Cash is also known for his 2004 book “A Table in the Presence” about his experience as a combat chaplain in Iraq in which he denigrates Islam. I'm not sure this helps Obama in dealing with problems in the Middle East.

His choice for pastor is one thing, but his choice for Supreme Court Justice is another. Maybe the appointment of Judge Sotomayor was primarily a political calculation for the Hispanic vote, but it put the sixth Catholic justice on the Supreme Court, up from three before Bush took office. Until now, the five justices that are part of those recent bad 5-4 decisions are all Catholic. While attempting to achieve ethnic balance, he has tipped the scales even further towards a court dominated by one religious doctrine.

I dismay at the negative impact religion has had on this country, and I doubt that this President is going to do anything about it.

We have a scientifically illiterate public, over half of which think evolution is a myth and climate change a lie. A huge minority thinks the Earth is a few thousand years old and that end times are coming soon. In the public media such non-sense is treated as “an opposing opinion.” Will a flat Earth soon be just “an opposing opinion?”

We have a military that has become more Christian with little tolerance for other religions. The Chaplain's Corp is now dominated by Evangelical Christians who claim a right to “convert the un-churched.” We have troops in Iraq and Afghanistan handing out Bibles in local languages.

We have allowed our secular nation to become a religious joke to the industrialized world and a crusading threat to the Middle East. We have to ask ourselves, is religion really harmless in the public debate about the future of our nation?

Democratic Club of West Orange County Year End Event—December 6th by Pauline Younkin



Our third year-end meeting is scheduled for Sunday evening December 6 at the Seacliff Country Club. It will be a formal sit-down dinner including two guest speakers: Senator Joe Dunn and Melahat

Rafiei, executive director DPOC, a silent auction and a short awards ceremony.

Invitations with details will be in the mail Monday November 9.

This event is not a fund raiser and every effort is made to make it self sustaining. That is, no club funds are used, as next year some important local elections will be needing club support.

The menu this year is Chicken Marin, a creation of Chef Marin of Seacliff and the price is \$55.00. This includes the 29.75% tax and gratuities on the meal and dessert.



It is important that as many members and friends attend as is possible as our goals for the coming year will be discussed and Joe will be talking about the status of Obama's and our goals for the past year 2009.

If you have any questions, or if you have something for our auction please contact Pauline at 714-962-1211 or e-mail paulinemtwill@socal.rr.com.

See you there!

We will not be having our regular meeting in December and there will be no newsletter in December!

Message from the President—Jo Anne Jennings

Because debates about universal health care always seem to quote problems in Canada and Great Britain, I found the information in *The Healing of America* by T. R. Reid enlightening. As the author traveled the world, he experienced and shared details about the different health care systems in Japan, Taiwan, India, Switzerland, Germany, Great Britain, and Canada.

He breaks universal health care into two basic categories. Both of these systems provide better health care for less money than the United States. Great Britain's system is the most socialistic and Switzerland is one of the most capitalistic. Yet both provide affordable universal health care.

All universal health care plans had two things in common. The first is a belief that equal access to health care is a moral issue. Considering how many people believe the United States a Christian nation, it's surprising we don't see more pastors standing up and clamoring for a more just system.

Secondly, all universal health care systems have government regulation. Prices are set nationally and posted in every medical office. There are pressures under these programs from medical providers and the general population as costs go up and the government has to make adjustments. In other words, people complain but they expect their leaders to fix the problem. Universal health care is very popular among the people.

The book has a wealth of information and it's an easy read. It's available at the library and the bookstore. It's also a good reminder of how health care in the United States is presently rationed and often means death to the uninsured. Getting equitable health care in the United States puts pressure on all of us to get involved. Please place a call, send an e-mail or write a letter to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid or Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to express your concern. ###

That Nobel Peace Prize — Michael Moore

Because Michael Moore can say it so much better than I can...

Source: <http://www.alternet.org/story/143192/>

Dear President Obama,

How outstanding that you've been recognized today as a man of peace. Your swift, early pronouncements -- you will close Guantanamo, you will bring the troops home from Iraq, you want a nuclear weapon-free world, you admitted to the Iranians that we overthrew their democratically-elected president in 1953, you made that great speech to the Islamic world in Cairo, you've eliminated that useless term "The War on Terror," you've put an end to torture -- these have all made us and the rest of the world feel a bit more safe considering the disaster of the past eight years. In eight months you have done an about face and taken this country in a much more sane direction.

But...

The irony that you have been awarded this prize on the 2nd day of the ninth year of our War in Afghanistan is not lost on anyone. You are truly at a crossroads now. You can listen to the generals and expand the war (only to result in a far-too-predictable defeat) or you can declare Bush's Wars over, and bring all the troops home. Now. That's what a true man of peace would do.

There is nothing wrong with you doing what the last guy failed to do -- capture the man or men responsible for the mass murder of 3,000 people on 9/11. BUT YOU CANNOT DO THAT WITH TANKS AND TROOPS. You are pursuing a criminal, not an army. You do not use a stick of dynamite to get rid of a mouse.

The Taliban is another matter. That is a problem for the people of Afghanistan to resolve -- just as we did in 1776, the French did in 1789, the Cubans did in 1959, the Nicaraguans did in 1979 and the people of East Berlin did in 1989. One thing is certain through all revolutions by people who wish to be free -- they ultimately have to bring about that freedom themselves. Others can be supportive, but freedom can not be delivered from the front seat of someone else's Humvee.

You have to end our involvement in Afghanistan now. If you don't, you'll have no choice but to return the prize to Oslo.

Yours,

Michael Moore

P.S. Your opposition has spent the morning attacking you for bringing such good will to this country. Why do they hate America so much? I get the feeling that if you found the cure for cancer this afternoon they'd be denouncing you for destroying free enterprise because cancer centers would have to close. There are those who say you've done nothing yet to deserve this award. As far as I'm concerned, the very fact that you've offered to walk into the minefield of hate and try to undo the irreparable damage the last president did is not only appreciated by me and millions of others, it is also an act of true bravery. That's why you got the prize. The whole world is depending on the U.S. -- and you -- to literally save this planet. Let's not let them down. ###

Letter to the Editor of the Orange County Register

According to the USA PATRIOT Act, an act of terrorism is any violent act that is performed with intent to influence or intimidate the government, or the populace, to further a political cause. The assassination of abortion provider Dr. George Tiller by Scott Roeder obviously qualifies as an act of terrorism.

The USA PATRIOT Act defines material support of terrorism as providing financial support or services to a terrorist or terrorist organization. Material support of terrorism is a felony.

Organizations that are giving material support to Scott Roeder by raising funds through an auction and endorsing his "right to murder," include the Prayer and Action Newsletter, and The Army of God, both of which endorse violence against abortion providers.

When will our government enforce the USA PATRIOT Act against someone who is not Muslim? We need to prosecute domestic terrorism, and those who support domestic terrorism.

Rich Gillock

What Should The Club Do About Participation in the Huntington Beach 4th of July Parade? - Jo Anne Jennings

The executive board wants to consider the vote of the general membership as an advisement of support on whether to continue sponsoring the 4th of July Parade float. Making a decision before the new year begins allows the budget committee to determine our budget needs and, if needed, establish a fundraising committee that could begin to collect money. A late decision delays providing an entry fee until the last minute which puts us at the end of the parade.

Many members have strong feelings regarding what's the appropriate use of our funds and where our time and effort should be placed. I hope everyone will take time to read the pros and cons and vote at our general meeting on November 18th or mail/email in the ballot

PROS

The 4th of July Parade is a patriotic event in which the Democratic Party has a chance to show its patriotism. **It lets parade watchers, as well as those watching on TV, know the Democrats have an active presence**

in Orange County. Members running for office, though not allowed to campaign, can meet, greet, and make their faces familiar to the crowd.

The \$4,600 cost was covered by donations from Rep. Loretta Sanchez, individuals and other clubs and \$257 in DCWOC funds.

CONS

The total cost of \$4,600 to cover the entrance fee, float and band is money that could go to support candidates running for office. **If we don't raise the money separately, we are still responsible for providing these funds.** Alternatively, that money could help candidates with advertisements or other expenses or go towards a campaign office that coordinates precinct walking, phone banking and provides election materials for distribution to the public.

Although we have sponsored the parade in years past, very few of our members choose to march in the parade.

4th of July Parade Ballot—Important—Please Vote!!

If you are unable to attend the meeting on November 18th please print this page and mail your ballot in. Ballots must be received by November 16th.

You may also email your vote to westocdems@yahoo.com. If you email please be sure to include: Yes/No Vote. And if "Yes" what you are willing to do to support the effort.

Snail Mail Address for ballot is:

Democratic Club of West Orange County, 2781 W. MacArthur Blvd. #B-Box 347. Santa Ana 92704

Ballot

_____ **Yes**, I believe the DCWOC should continue to sponsor the 4th of July Parade float.

_____ **No**, I believe the DCWOC should no longer sponsor the 4th of July Parade float.

If you answered **YES**, please fill out the following and mark all that would apply to you.

_____ I'm willing to donate to the parade float. Please identify your pledge amount: \$ _____

_____ I'm willing to help with fundraising and will serve on the committee.

_____ I'm willing to march in the parade.

Name: _____ Contact info: _____

Upcoming Calendar of Interesting Events for Dems!

Nov 11 11:30 am	Women for OC's Festive Holiday Gathering, presents "Just One Woman: Wahu Kaara" at the Duck Club in Irvine. She is the Kenyan 2005 Nobel Peace Prize nominee speaking in her only Orange County appearance about empowering women and men for social change. Wahu Kaara is a candidate in the 2012 Kenyan presidential elections and determined to walk the talk of empowering women as agents of social transformation. Free and open to all, guests are encouraged to bring an appetizer, main dish, salad or dessert for four to six people. Women For supports the Action Committee for Women in Prison by gathering holiday gifts for women incarcerated in CA prisons. Allowable gifts: small lotions, soaps, shampoo, conditioners, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental floss, lip balm, stationery, candy, packets of coffee, tea and cocoa. Please bring donations to the meeting. The Duck Club is at the end of Riparian View, off Michelson Dr. between Culver Dr. and Jamboree Rd. Follow signs to San Joaquin Wildlife Sanctuary. womenforoc.org Contact: 949/276-7298
Nov 11 7:00 pm	Next meeting of the 67th Area Wide Democratic Alliance ; International Association of Machinists Hall, 5402 Bolsa Avenue, Huntington Beach. For more details see http://www.67thad.com .
Nov 13-15	California Democratic Party Executive Board Meeting Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa and Marina, 1441 Quivira Road, San Diego, CA 92109 www.cadem.org/site/c.jrLZK2PyHmF/b.5539823/k.B44C/EBoard.htm
Nov 16 7:00 pm	Next meeting of the 68th Assembly District Committee . Contact them via their web site for additional information at http://www.68thad.com/contact.asp . Carrows, 16931 Magnolia Ave., Huntington Beach
Nov 18 6:30 pm	Democratic Club of West Orange County—Meeting—See Page 1 for details
Nov 21 2:00 pm	Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Annual Meeting and Appetizer/Dessert Potluck. See the year in review and a preview of 2010 activities as well as socialize with like minded people committed to the separation of church and state. Irvine Ranch Water District, 15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine www.au-oc.org or call 714-299-4551 for information.
Nov 23 7:00 pm	Orange County Central Committee. All Democrats are welcome. Carpenter's Hall, 1816 W. Chapman Avenue, Orange.
Nov 27	Buy Nothing Day—Black Friday; International Day of Protest Against Consumerism—see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buy_Nothing_Day
Dec 6 6:30 pm	Democratic Club of West Orange County—Special Year End Event See Page 3 for details

Next E-Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 2nd at 7:00 pm
Pauline Younkin's Home
10960 El Domino, Fountain Valley
Call Jo Anne at 714-846-5201 or Pauline at 714-589-1211 for information

Dynamic Democrat's Picture of the Month!



This is the Connecticut state legislature. The man speaking is the House Minority Leader, a Republican. The two playing solitaire on their laptops are Democrats. The party of the guy checking baseball scores behind them is unknown.

The Connecticut House had convened a special Monday night session to vote on a new budget. They voted in a 30-day extension on the budget. Wonder if they'll be playing solitaire on the next budget vote. I wonder how many California legislators play solitaire...

January Dynamic Democrat Submissions due on: Jan-6-2010

Expanded Dynamic Democrat: Only Available via Email or the Web

Remember: The **expanded Dynamic Democrat** has extra articles, pictures and opinion pieces. **BUT**—this edition is only available electronically. If you want to know what your Democratic neighbors are reading, you need to see this version.

It is available by email or you can download it from the web site at www.dcwoc.org by scrolling down to "Click to Download the Newsletter" - one click and you have it.

Of course you can always print your electronic copy. To do that, select Print from the File Menu. You can also zoom the file to display at whatever size is comfortable reading for you. Select Zoom from the View menu and choose the size you want to zoom to.

When you choose the electronic version you help the Club save money on printing and postage. Plus you get your newsletter sooner than waiting for "snail mail." ###

Treasurer's Report: Club Account Balance: \$7,212.56

Thank You Patrons!

Sally Alexander	Sukhjot Chahal	Jo Anne Jennings	David and Deborah Rector
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What Are The “Yes Men” Up To These Days?

In mid-October a press release went out saying the Chamber of Commerce had miraculously reversed its stand on climate legislation. Instead of spending millions of dollars lobbying Washington to “do nothing” the business world had suddenly come to its senses and seen that something

must be done. The press release showed up in Reuters and the NY Times.

A press conference was held by the Yes Men; sadly the Chamber of Commerce showed up and revealed it as a hoax. ###

Long Term Care Insurance Included in Health Care Reform Bills

Long term care decisions are necessary, can be difficult and can be expensive. Over 10 million Americans need long-term care services to help them in their daily lives. Medicaid is the only safety-net program for providing these services, which only kicks in if the recipients are poor. Medicare only covers short-term nursing home and home health care. There is no program to help with the costs of long term care. Nursing home costs average \$70,000 a year and home health services average \$29 an hour.

The Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act is being debated as part of the health care reform package. The CLASS Act is a national, voluntary insurance program to facilitate community living services and support (sometimes also called in home supportive services or IHSS.) The program will be financed through monthly premiums paid by voluntary payroll deductions.

Membership Application Democratic Club of West Orange County

Your name, address, occupation and employer is required by Federal & California Law for all cash donations \$25 or greater. \$100 or greater donations must be by check only.

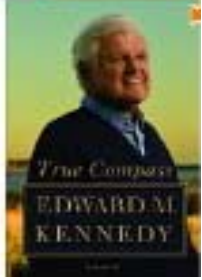
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	Santa Ana, CA 92704

Book Review – True Compass – Edward Kennedy Reviewed by Steph Campbell

Let me start by saying that I loved this book. It reaffirmed for me that this man was the best of the Kennedys. It reinforced my feelings about his two older brothers. Not that I think that was his intention; but I still think that, as a person, Bobby Kennedy was less than admirable, regardless of his politics. To me that came out in the book. But others who have read it and are long time admirers of RFK have told me they disagree with this opinion.



It was clear that this was a family who put incredible pressure among their children to exceed; at least their male children. The sisters while loved were not expected to do much other than marry well.

The book recounts all the memories we all have beginning with JFK's presidential campaign. You live, through him, the impact of Joe Kennedy's stroke and the assassinations, as well as Chappaquiddick. In the book it is clear that Kennedy sought to cover not only the successes in his long public life but also to be honest about the failures.

He gives us the feeling of what life in the Senate is like and covers Watergate, Vietnam, Northern Ireland and the ongoing fights for civil rights and health care. The latter is particularly moving as it's interspersed with tales of his own hospital experiences and those of his son.

This is also a love story between him and Victoria Reggie Kennedy.

And finally he takes us through his tough reelection campaign against Mitt Romney to his endorsement of Barack Obama for president.

On the down side, it doesn't always flow well. It's clear that much of the material comes from oral histories, notebooks that Kennedy kept over the years and extensive interviews. It is not always possible to tell where Kennedy's voice ends and that of his collaborator begins.

When you read this book, and I do recommend it, be sure to read the acknowledgments at its conclusion to understand that this is a project with many hands. Some reviewers have said that "it bogs down when it turns to the dreary business that so fascinates those in the game: legislative battles, policy debates and foreign travels to meet and greet alien eminences, from popes to prime ministers." I disagree. And the portraits he paints of Jimmy Carter, Richard Nixon, LBJ and Ronald Reagan are what makes this book so compelling. ###



Contacting the Media—Roz Freeman

Did you ever want to call or email a network anchor but didn't know where to start? Well, here is a small list of to get you started. Save it somewhere and add to it as you find other contact information. It becomes your personal 'go to' activist list.

CNN

(404) 827 – 1500
Comment line: (404) 827 - 0234
CNN NEWS DIRECTOR Kim Bondy. 404 827 1500. fax. 404 827 1099
CNN NEWSROOM 404.827.1500 . 404.827.1500.

cnnfutures@cnn.com

Call Anderson Cooper at 1-866-NY-AC360
Everyone at CNN is listed individually on this page:
<http://www.cnn.com/feedback/cnntv/>

MSNBC

- Phone: 1-212-664-4444 EMAIL: letters@msnbc.com

CBS

-Phone: 212 975 3247

ABC

ABC NEW YORK NEWSROOM: (212) 456-5100 newsradio@abc.com

Peter Salinger (the man in charge of election coverage)
Director, Special Events & Sports 212.456.5105 peter.salinger@abc.com

Cristi Landes, Manager, Programming 212.456.5107
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(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

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Institute for Public Accuracy dcinstitute@igc.org
media matters mm-tips@mediamatters.org ###

Religion in the Health Care Bills

Tucked into the health care reform bill passed by Sen. Harkin's Health, Education, Labor and Pension Committee is a mandate that insurers reimburse for "religious or spiritual health care" that is classified as a deductible medical care expense by the Internal Revenue Service. See S.1679, Section 3103(a)(1)(D).

The House Energy and Commerce Committee on which Congressman Bruce Braley sits has added a similar measure to the House health care reform bill. See Section 125 of HR3200.

The Internal Revenue Service allows bills sent by Christian Science practitioners for their prayers to be deducted from income tax as a medical care expense. The agency has declined requests to provide evidence that Christian Science heals disease.

Christian Science founder Mary Baker Eddy directed church practitioners to "make their charges for treatment equal to those of reputable physicians in their respective localities." (First Church of Christ, Scientist, and Miscellany, p. 237) These treatments consist only of prayer.

These practitioners set their own rates, but sometimes their charges are indeed comparable to medical bills. In 1989, Christian Science healer Mario Tosto charged parents \$446 for two days of prayer-treatment for Ian Lundman, an 11-year-old Minnesota boy with diabetes.

The boy died.

In Michigan, an insurance company balked at paying a Christian Science practitioner's bill of \$1,775 for her prayers on top of medical bills for the patient. The couple sued the company, which then settled out of court. *Stephenson v. State Farm*, 48th District Court, as reported in Michigan Trial Lawyers Association newsletter, October 1986.

The IRS has an extremely broad definition of deductible medical care. Any service primarily intended to affect "some structure or function of the body" is medical care. The "experience, qualification, or title of the person rendering services" is irrelevant.

Whether anyone besides the person paying for the service thinks it is medical is irrelevant. Bills incurred for anyone's prayers or healing rituals are deductible medical care. (For verification, see these sources: IR Ruling 55-261, 1955-1 C.B. 307, IR Ruling 63-91, 1963-1 C.B. 54, and *Fischer v. Commissioner*, 50 T.C. 164, 194 (1968)).

Fortunately, most religions do not send bills for their prayers. And the IRS's bizarre, loosey-goosey policy may not have cost the public a lot of money to date because taxpayers can deduct only medical care bills that are higher than 7.5 percent of their adjusted gross income and then only a percentage according to their tax bracket.

If, however, the federal government forces the insurance industry to pay for prayer, a new cottage industry will likely spring up and Christian Science practitioners will likely raise their prices.

Even more serious is that the Christian Science church will use the federal law as another argument that Christian Science "treatment" should be a legal substitute for medical care of sick children.

There will be more laws like West Virginia's religious defense to fatal neglect of a child when parents withhold medical care and instead rely on prayer-treatment "if fees and expenses incurred in connection with such treatment are permitted to be deducted from taxable income as 'medical expenses' pursuant to regulations or rules promulgated by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. (West Virginia Code 61-8D-4a(b)).

Iowa's religious defense to felony child endangerment and manslaughter at Iowa Code 726.6(d) has been justified on similar grounds.

The government should not be forcing anyone to pay for prayer. We urge Congress to remove all provisions in the health care reform bills that require insurers to reimburse for prayer or any other "health care" that is not evidence-based.

Rita Swan is president of Sioux City-based Children's Healthcare Is a Legal Duty (CHILD, Inc.), a non-profit national membership organization established to protect children from abusive religious and cultural practices, especially religion-based medical neglect. For more information, visit www.childrenshealthcare.org. ###

Republican Surge in 2010?

The New York Times reports that the Republicans are predicting that they will regain control of the House in 2010. Well of course that's what they are predicting. Would anyone expect that the GOP leadership would come out and say we're a devastated party and have no chance in 2010? At the same time we shouldn't expect it to be a walk in the park for the Democrats. Of course maybe if the Democrats showed a little backbone, they wouldn't need to be concerned.

With the election just over a year away, Democrats and Republicans both acknowledge that the political environment has deteriorated for Democrats and that Democratic losses in the House are highly likely. Republicans are predicting they will take the House back; Democrats say that is unlikely.

Independent analysts say multiple factors bolster the contention that 2010 will not be a repeat of 1994. Perhaps foremost among them is that after two shifts in control in 12 years, Democrats will not be caught off-guard, as they were after 40 years in power. In the Democrats' favor there has not been a wave of retirements so they don't have to fight in open seat contests. But Democratic fund-raising is

down even though the DCCC has outraised its Republican counterpart. And Republican standing remains low in public opinion polls, as the party continues to struggle to resolve the gulf between its conservative wing, which is ascendant, and the remaining moderates.

It is impossible to predict what the public mood will be a year from now. If we pass true health care reform, if we get something more than the oxymoron "jobless recovery" election outcomes may be very different.

"There is reason for Republican optimism on what the year is going to look like, but I don't think there is reason for euphoria," said Stuart Rothenberg, editor of the nonpartisan Rothenberg Political Report. But he does agree with Republicans that the landscape has changed, with the Bush era that helped Democrats to two consecutive House sweeps now behind Republicans. And Republicans say they will be able to increase house seats because the public is opposed to gay rights and disbelieves in climate change.

For more reasons than a Democratic majority we better hope that they are wrong. Without a doubt, we are in for an acrimonious election battle. ###

California Fair Elections Act on the June Ballot—Steph Campbell



In June, the California Fair Elections Act will be on the ballot. Basically, the initiative will create a pilot clean money program for Secretary of State Candidates who agree to be limited by spending caps. We all

know that money is the root of all corruption in politics. This is something we should get behind.

So far the polling on this shows that there is a good chance of this measure passing. 63% of those polled said they would support the measure and so far there's no organized opposition. But obviously that won't last.

Here's how it would work:

To Qualify: Candidates have to receive 7,500 \$5 qualifying contributions and signatures from registered California voters to show that they have a broad base of support.

Candidates running as "Fair Elections Candidates" will

receive \$1,000,000 for the primary fight. If they win their primary they receive \$1,300,000 in public funds to run a competitive general election campaign.

And if their opponent still outspends them? If the "Fair Elections Candidate" is outspent by an opponent who does not participate, or if independent groups attack them or support their opponent, they receive matching funds on a dollar for dollar basis of 4 times the base amount, i.e. \$4,000,000 in a primary and \$5,200,000 in the general election.

Prohibitions for Participating Candidates: Candidates would be prohibited from raising or spending additional money beyond what they receive from the fund. Once qualified, they must agree to spending limits and take no private contributions. ###

Americans United for Separation of Church and State
Annual Meeting

Saturday, November 21st at 2:00 pm

Irvine Ranch Water District
15600 Sand Canyon Ave. (at Waterworks) in Irvine

 **Orange County**
Americans United for Separation of Church and State



It's that time of year again. The leaves start to fall off the trees and the wheels start falling off the wagon. We need your help.

The AU-OC Steering Committee has been bringing educational programs to its members on the importance of the separation of church and state and the impacts of religious entanglement with government. These programs range from political activism on issues like Prop. 8 to scientific issues like stem cell research and keeping creationism out of the school science curriculum.

The Annual Member Meeting is about how our chapter serves its members and where we want to go forward. We will have an election of officers this year as well as a review of what we accomplished in 2009 and our incomplete plans for 2010.

We also want to hear your ideas. It's your chapter and it's our community. Help us make it better by getting involved in the future of AU in Orange County.

Admission is free and we are having a pot-luck appetizer and dessert buffet. Please bring some of your favorite goodies to share.

For more information:

www.au-oc.org or email: orangecountyau@yahoo.com
Fax: 714-515-4248 or call: 714-299-4551 or 714-957-0748