



iowa right to life

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update

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May 2008

## IRLC Takes Wesley J. Smith on the Road

IOWA CITY – Attorney, author and speaker **Wesley J. Smith** went on the road with Iowa Right to Life April 23-25 to educate Iowans on human cloning and de-code the stem cell research debate.

Smith's dynamic talk, *A Brave New Iowa: Stem Cells, Cloning and The Sanctity of Human Life*, wowed audiences of students, professors and the



general public. His packed schedule included talks at Des Moines University, Iowa State University, University of Iowa, and Muscatine Right to Life.

In Iowa City, Smith was joined by stem cell expert Dr. Alan Moy, Cellular Engineering Technologies and Director of the John Paul II Stem Cell Research Institute.

To learn more, visit: [www.wesleyjsmith.com](http://www.wesleyjsmith.com).

## Garner Teen Wins Oratory Contest

DES MOINES – A Garner teen was given a standing ovation by a sold-out crowd at Iowa Right to Life's Spring Fling dinner Saturday, May 3, at the Forte Convention Center in Des Moines for his speech that took first prize in Iowa Right to Life's 2008 Oratory Contest.

**Micah Howe**, 18, received \$200 for his first place oratory, *Abortion: The Slippery Slope*, in the competition, which took place earlier Saturday in Des Moines. The senior from Garner-Hayfield High School said the fact that he is adopted is the inspiration for his pro-life position. In addition, Howe earned a trip to Washington D.C. to represent Iowa in National Right to Life's Oratory Contest on July 5.

"This is the first year we have had this contest and it exceeded all expectations," said Kim Lehman, President of Iowa Right to Life. "These contestants are the future of the pro-life movement and they were all incredibly passionate, inspirational and very well spoken."



**IRLC 2008 Oratory Contestants:** (L-R) Front Row: Samantha Spragg, Trinh Le; Back Row: Micah Howe, Jessica LaFleur, Lizzie Carey, Zach Larson

**Trinh Le**, a senior at North High School in Des Moines was the runner-up in the contest, winning \$100; and **Lizzie Carey**, a home-schooler from West Des Moines, won third prize, \$50.

Contestants in the Iowa Right to Life Oratory Contest were to research, write and present an original, 5-7 minute, pro-life speech on abortion, infanticide, euthanasia or stem cell research. Contestants were judged

on four criteria: Introduction, Content, Presentation and Conclusion. Iowa Right to Life plans to make the Oratory Contest an annual event.

Howe, the winner, will attend Moody Bible Institute in Chicago this fall. He is currently a volunteer ministry assistant at Garner Evangelical Free Church and enjoys golf and preaching at churches and youth groups.



## Iowa Right to Life Launches New Website

DES MOINES – IRLC has launched a beautiful new website by **Mauck-Groves Branding and Design** and **Flying Hippo Web Technologies**. The new website includes pro-life events, creative ways to get involved, legislative updates, research on pro-life events and more. A special "Help, I'm Pregnant" section provides resources for women and girls facing a crisis pregnancy. Check it out at [www.irlc.org](http://www.irlc.org).

# Legislative Session Ends with \$200,000 for Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers in Iowa

DES MOINES – Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa worked hard to secure more tax dollars from Iowans for their so-called “Healthy Families” campaign, but fell just short of the \$1,000,000 they were looking for.

Planned Parenthood lobbied for the money by sounding the alarm over teen pregnancy, in a major campaign that included TV, radio and multiple mailings. As it turns out, **Iowa Right to Life exposed the fact that Iowa already has one of the lowest teen pregnancy rates in the country, and already distributes over 19 million dollars**

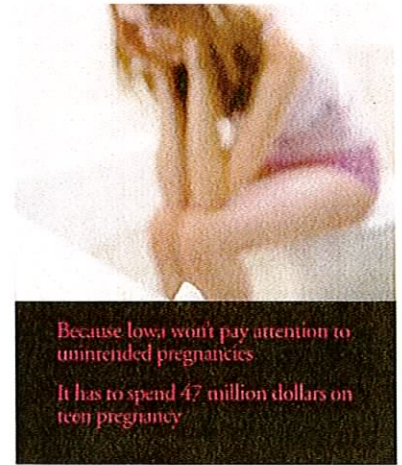
Planned Parenthood was trying to get money for a problem that doesn't exist!

Iowa Right to Life, with a number of

gutsy pro-life officials, were able to limit Planned Parenthood's new income to \$750,000, while \$200,000 was redirected to maternity homes, pregnancy centers and adoption agencies to help women and teens in crisis pregnancies. Thanks to Senator David Johnson of Sioux County and Representative Matt Whindschittl of Pottawattamie, who proposed the amendments that led to the money going to organizations that promote life.

The fight is not over. Planned Parenthood has future plans to increase the funds to help them expand all over Iowa.

We have an uphill battle, because the Iowa House, Senate and Executive Branch are all controlled by the Democrats, who with a few exceptions, tow the pro-abortion line.



Because Iowa won't pay attention to unintended pregnancies  
It has to spend 47 million dollars on teen pregnancy

Because of this, IRLC will be working harder than ever to elect pro-life officials in Iowa in 2008. But we need your help.

To get involved or to donate, please visit [www.irlc.org](http://www.irlc.org).

## Mark your calendars...



**Lit Drop for Pro-Life Candidates Johnston and West Des Moines Saturday, May 17**

IRLC will be hitting the streets with pro-life candidates for the Iowa House of Representatives, Chris Hagenow (District 59) and Erik Helland (District 69). Volunteers will assist with a literature drop and some door knocking.

To volunteer, call IRLC at 515.244.1012 or email: [committee@irlc.org](mailto:committee@irlc.org).

**National Right to Life Convention Hyatt Regency Crystal City Arlington, VA July 3-5**

Cheer on our IRLC Oratory Contest Winner Micah Howe as he competes for the national oratory title. Enjoy great pro-life speakers and network with pro-lifers from around the country. For more info, visit: [www.nrlc.org/convention/index.html](http://www.nrlc.org/convention/index.html).



**IRLC Book Sale Des Moines September 9-13**

IRLC's popular Fall Book Sale is entering its third year, as an alternative to Planned Parenthood's fundraising book sale. Proceeds go to pro-life pregnancy centers in Iowa.

To donate books visit: [www.irlc.org](http://www.irlc.org) or call 515.244.1012.