



Christian Voices for Life

Weekly Pro-Life

Education

Prayer

Action

Zika Virus and Microcephaly



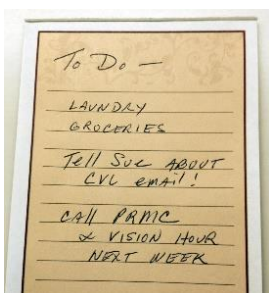
Education: The recent outbreak of Zika virus and the risk of pregnant women who are infected giving birth to children with microcephaly have led to travel advisories, and athletes forgoing a chance at Olympic medals. Certainly it is an issue of serious concern. But federal money to help prevent infection and spread of the virus has been held up by disagreements between politicians about whether abortion is an appropriate “treatment” for the problem. Microcephaly is a serious condition, involving a smaller than normal head, developmental delays, seizures, and other problems. Cases can vary in severity, with the most severe cases linked to contraction of the virus earlier in pregnancy. **Many children with microcephaly, can however, lead productive lives.** If diagnosis is made in utero, it would usually be at the end of the 2nd trimester, when abortion is illegal in many states. (1)

One mother in Florida has two adult children (Andrea, age 37 and Robbie, 33) with microcephaly, and describes them as “the greatest gift.” Andrea has a mind similar to a three-year-old and she has great computer skills. Robbie has the mind of a seven-year-old and loves the arts. (2) Children afflicted with microcephaly, just as those with Down syndrome, are still children of God, deserving of life and love. Handicapped people have every right to protection and aid after birth; why should it be acceptable to kill them before birth? **Abortion does not prevent a life from beginning** – it ends a life already begun, already real and alive and human.

1. <http://www.webmd.com/parenting/baby/what-is-microcephaly?>
2. <http://liveactionnews.org/mom-children-microcephaly-says-theyre-greatest-gift/>



Prayer: Dear Father God, please bless those individuals that are burdened with physical or mental handicaps, and help their families to care for them with love and respect. Help us all to see every individual you have created with your eyes, a child you have created in your own image. Help us to always be respectful of all your children, and to do what we can to ease the burden felt by them and their families. Help parents who have a handicapped child in the womb to resist pressure to abort and rather accept the child into their family as a gift from you. Help more people recognize the abortion of preborn children with disabilities to be unjust and discriminatory.



Action: Try to be more aware of handicapped individuals you may encounter around you. Think about how you might offer to help them, while respecting their independence. Support laws to protect handicapped preborn children from abortion. If the topic of Zika virus comes up, be clear that exposure to the virus should not be an excuse for late term abortion. Microcephaly is a serious handicap, but those afflicted still deserve the right to life. It would be very dangerous to start allowing anyone to judge another’s life not worth living.