

Terry Cosgrove's editorial put forth a lot of misinformation about Representative Paul Froehlich.

Representative Froehlich's positions and service have earned him the respect and support of people in his district regardless of party affiliation. He promotes the life and dignity of every human person, regardless of his or her age, socioeconomic status or ethnic background.

Representative Froehlich advocates common-sense positions that protect women's health and are embraced by people on both sides of the aisle. Young women under age 18 deserve the medical advice of a health care professional before taking a powerful medication like the morning-after-pill, which may induce serious side-effects.

Cosgrove falsely stated, "Paul Froehlich opposes stem cell research." Actually, Representative Froehlich's record shows he supports almost all types of stem cell research. He does not believe that taxpayer funds should be used to support obsolete research methods that involve human cloning and the destruction of human embryos. Even Jamie Thompson, the University of Wisconsin researcher who isolated the first human embryonic stem cell, has turned away from embryonic stem cell research for the more effective approach of reprogramming adult stem cells – potentially the same result without the ethical cloud.

Finally, Cosgrove's characterization of "abstinence-only" sexuality education as being "totally discredited" is far from accurate. The Project Reality curricula used in many public and private schools throughout Illinois was evaluated in a rigorous study by Northwestern University and was determined to be effective.

Undoubtedly, Cosgrove wrote his article primarily due to Representative Froehlich's opposition to legislation that Cosgrove's PAC supported. House Bill 317 would have violated parents' rights, allowing minors to get an abortion without the knowledge of a parent or guardian. Kids need a parent's permission to go on a school field trip, but Cosgrove's group wants young girls to be able to have an elective surgery without the knowledge and guidance of the adults who care about them most. All the major polls show great public support for parental notification. Representative Paul Froehlich's positions make sense, and his constituents should be proud of his service.

Sincerely,  
J. Kevin Costello  
Chairman, Illinois Citizens for Ethics