

FACTS & OPINIONS

On Public Interest Issues

Quotes

“The service of humanity leads us to insist...that those using the latest advances of science, especially in the field of biotechnology, must never disregard fundamental ethical requirements by invoking a questionable solidarity which eventually leads to discriminating between one life and another and ignoring the dignity which belongs to every human being.”

— Pope John Paul II

“But, even at their best, bureaucracies tend to force their definitions of ‘reality’ on people...this is pernicious in large districts where the philistine values of administrators are allowed to defeat the educational commitments of teachers and principals....educational bureaucracies become endlessly expanding financial sinkholes that eat up resources and create only mischief and red tape.”

— David Berliner and
Bruce Biddle

*The Manufactured Crisis:
Myths, Fraud, and the Attack
on America’s Public Schools*

Cancer Treatment Nothing Short of Grueling: Cancer Research Needs Tissue

By Kim Lehman,
the John Paul II Medical Research Institute

It seems that too many Americans have cancer, showing up everywhere we turn. However, when a child gets cancer, it is even more devastating. Why? Because the treatment for cancer is nothing short of grueling. Without question, research to find a cure is needed and long overdue. Recently, two bold teenagers, Anna and Morgan, decided to help the John Paul II Medical Research Institute’s “Give Cures” campaign. Anna and Morgan both have had cancer and undergone agonizing rounds of chemotherapy.

According to national cancer statistics, over 26 billion dollars a year are spent on chemotherapy but only one-third of cancer patients are achieving cures. Furthermore, when relapse or metastasis occurs, patients are typically

subjected to additional rounds of chemotherapy with a different set of drugs. This approach to cancer therapy cannot continue. Research is needed to understand why the failure rate of chemotherapy is so high and to identify alternate approaches to identify and kill cancers.

There is now growing medical evidence to support the idea that these failures to respond to therapy are due to cancer stem cells that are more resistant to chemotherapy. These cancer stem cells, having survived the chemotherapy, can regenerate the cancer and lead to relapse and metastasis. At present, little is known of these cancer stem cells and they are not routinely detected, isolated, or tested for their susceptibility or resistance to chemotherapeutic drugs.

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Dr. Don Racheter
Editor
Deborah D. Thornton

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Having this technical ability would greatly advance the cancer field. To achieve this ability, there is a real need for cancer tissue. However, it is believed that less than 1 percent of cancer tissue biopsies that are taken make their way to the research laboratory. The John Paul II Medical Research Institute (JP2MRI) is uniquely positioned to address this need.

The John Paul II Medical Research Institute is a 501 (c) (3) organization based in Coralville, Iowa. One of the primary research efforts of the JP2MRI is in the area of cancer research, specifically cancers of the breast, colon, and lung. The JP2MRI has the technology for identifying and isolating cancer stem cells. However, before these cancer stem cells can be tested for their susceptibility or resistance to chemotherapeutic agents a repository of cancer tissues is needed. If you suffer from cancer, we encourage you to arrange with your physician to donate a cancer tissue biopsy for this desperately needed research. We must find cures.

The Institute launched its "Give Cures" campaign to invite the public to give to ethical research for cures. This could be in the form of giving a donation for research or giving tissue. We ask you to share the Give Cures flyer so everyone will learn about the Institute.

Give Cures is now recruiting doctors and their cancer patients to sign up on the Institute's Patient and Physician Registry to assist in

creating cancer stem cell lines so that industry, government, and academia can be more productive in their research efforts. With the support of private donations, the Institute will isolate and grow cancer stem cells from tissue biopsies or surgical specimens to offer personalized and more effective therapies for cancer patients.

Anna and Morgan are living heroes. After they went through the horrible chemotherapy regimen, they got involved to make a difference. Anna also wrote her story of what it was like to undergo cancer treatment. You can read Anna's story on the Give Cures website (www.givecures.org). However, like so many other people who want research, they do not want to help advance research that supports the killing of human embryos. Both Anna and Morgan have joined the Give Cures campaign to support ethical research. We invite you to do the same. Go to GiveCures.org to find out how you can "give" for "cures."

The John Paul II Medical Research Institute (JP2MRI) is a non-profit established to create a more streamlined process in conducting regenerative medicine research exclusively using adult stem cells and induced pluripotent stem cells.

Contact us at: John Paul II Medical Research Institute
540 E. Jefferson St., Suite 305,
Iowa City, IA 52245. Phone:
(319) 688-7367. Website:
<http://www.GiveCures.org>

Focus on Iowa Wesleyan College

On December 17, Don Wiley, Chairman of the IWC Board of Trustees announced that President Dr. Jay Simmons has been selected as the 23rd President of Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. President Simmons will remain on the job until June.

The Office of Institutional Relations announced a new scholarship, The Clifford E. Dodds Social Science Scholarship Award. The late Clifford E. and Emily Iona Dodds created an estate gift to Iowa Wesleyan to fund the scholarship. Mr. Dodds, a 1940 graduate, was a history major. He passed away in June 2011.

The Spring 2013 semester began on January 7th. There will be several alumni gathering events this winter, January 14 in Davenport, January 15 in Muscatine, and January 17 in Des Moines. In addition there will be three scholarship days held on campus, February 2 and 23, and March 16.

The play *Biloxi Blues* will be presented February 21, 7:30p.m., in the Chapel Auditorium, by the Montana Repertory Theatre. This free performance is funded by the Haselmayer Endowment for the Arts.

**Call 800-582-2383
for more information on
Iowa Wesleyan College.**

Facts & Opinions Questions of the Quarter:

What is your New Years' Resolution? Do you have any advice for our Governor and Legislators?

Send your thoughts on this issue to us on our Website at
<http://www.LimitedGovernment.org/FOJan2013.html>
or e-mail to Public.Interest.Institute@LimitedGovernment.org.

We may publish some of your ideas in the next issue
of *Facts & Opinions* in April 2013 and on our Website at:
www.LimitedGovernment.org.

What's New at Public Interest Institute?

2012 was a busy and productive year at PII. We researched, wrote, and published a record total of 13 POLICY STUDIES, participated in many meetings and conferences, and gained new members. Following the November elections, our work promoting free-markets and limited-government public policy is critical.

POLICY STUDY #12-9, "A Short History of Economic Theory" by Adam Wachholz was published in September. This is an excellent overview and refresher work for everyone.

"Water, Water Everywhere but Not a Drop for Power" by Deborah D. Thornton expands on the potential of renewable power generation from existing water sources and overregulation of this industry. Finally, #12-13, "Education Savings Accounts: A Path to Give All Children an Effective

Education and Prepare Them for Life," was done by Jonathan Butcher, the Education Director at the Goldwater Institute in Arizona. Education reform will be a hot topic in the 2013 Legislature, and we must encourage them to expand the school choice options for all children.

December BRIEFS included "The Overregulation of School Lunches," by Jennifer L. Crull, "Iowa's Privileged Class: State Government Employees," by Amy K. Frantz, and "Governor Branstad Earns a 'B'" by Deborah D. Thornton.

Analyst John Hendrickson spent November and December teaching two classes at Iowa Wesleyan College, including "United States History to 1877" and a seminar in "History of the Early United States."

Almost 250 newspaper columns were published by over 20 newspapers, statewide in 2012. We are reaching a wide range of general interest readers with our message of limited-government and free-markets.

To continue our publications, Public Interest Institute relies on the support of donors. Your contributions help us find solutions to today's public-policy challenges. Please use the enclosed postcard to donate today.

The School Staffing Surge
Decades of Employment Growth in America's Public Schools
By Benjamin Scafidi, Ph.D.
The Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice

America's K-12 public education system has experienced tremendous historical growth in employment, according to the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics. Between fiscal year (FY) 1950 and FY 2009, the number of K-12 public school students in the United States increased by 96 percent while the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) school employees grew 386 percent.

Public schools grew staffing at a rate four times faster than the increase in students over that time period. Of those personnel, teachers' numbers increased 252 percent while administrators and other staff experienced growth of 702 percent, more than seven times the increase in students.

In a recent Heritage Foundation *Backgrounder*, Lindsey Burke (2012) reports that since 1970, the number of students in American public schools increased by 8 percent while the number of teachers increased 60 percent and the number of non-teaching personnel increased 138 percent. That hiring pattern has persisted in more recent years as well. The full report

analyzes the rise in public school personnel relative to the increase in students since FY 1992. Analyses are provided for the nation as a whole and for each state.

Between FY 1992 and FY 2009, the number of K-12 public school students nationwide grew 17 percent while the number of full-time equivalent school employees increased 39 percent, 2.3 times greater than the increase in students over that 18-year period.

Among school personnel, teachers' staffing numbers rose 32 percent while administrators and other staff experienced growth of 46 percent; the growth in the number of administrators and other staff was 2.7 times that of students.

Importantly, such growth cannot be attributed to the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law. During the pre-NCLB period, FY 1992 to FY 2001, public schools' student population grew 13 percent while public education personnel rose 29 percent — a 23 percent increase for teachers and a 37 percent increase for administrators and other staff.

Post-NCLB (FY 2002 to FY 2009), employment growth

(7 percent) still outpaced student numbers (3 percent). Teachers and administrators increased at about the same rate of 7 percent.

The chief difference between the NCLB era and the prior time period is the trend toward increasing non-teaching staff at a rate greater than teachers was halted — with NCLB, teachers and non-teaching staff both increased at the same rate (more than twice as fast as student enrollment). In both the pre- and post-NCLB periods analyzed, overall staffing in public education grew about 2.3 times faster than the increase in students.

Compared to other nations' schools, U.S. public schools devote significantly higher fractions of their operating budgets to non-teaching personnel — and lower portions to teachers. Meanwhile, the U.S. is one of the highest spending nations in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) when it comes to K-12 education.

Notably, different states experienced different patterns from FY 1992 to FY 2009. For ease of exposition, Washington, D.C., is treated as a state.

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During that time, 48 states grew total school personnel at a faster rate than their increase in students — or decreased school personnel at a slower rate than their declines in students.

Forty-six states increased teachers and 48 states grew non-teaching personnel at faster rates than their uptick in students.

Even when student populations were dropping, public school systems were increasing staffing between 1992 and 2009.

Nine states with declining student populations had significant increases in public school personnel — D.C., Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wyoming.

For example, Maine experienced an 11 percent decline in students from 1992-2009; however, the number of public school personnel

increased by 35 percent. Perhaps more noteworthy during that period is the number of teachers in Maine public schools increased by 3 percent while the number of non-teaching personnel increased by 76 percent.

An additional two states with declining student populations — Montana and West Virginia — did not decrease staffing at nearly the same rate as their declines in students. Only three states, between 1992 and 2009, increased public school personnel at a slower rate than their rise in students — Arizona, Nevada, and South Carolina.

There is no evidence in the aggregate that the increase in public school staffing caused student achievement to improve. In a shocking finding, economist and Nobel laureate James Heckman and his co-author, Paul LaFontaine,

found that public high school graduation rates peaked around 1970. Thus, as staffing was rising dramatically in public schools, graduation rates were not.

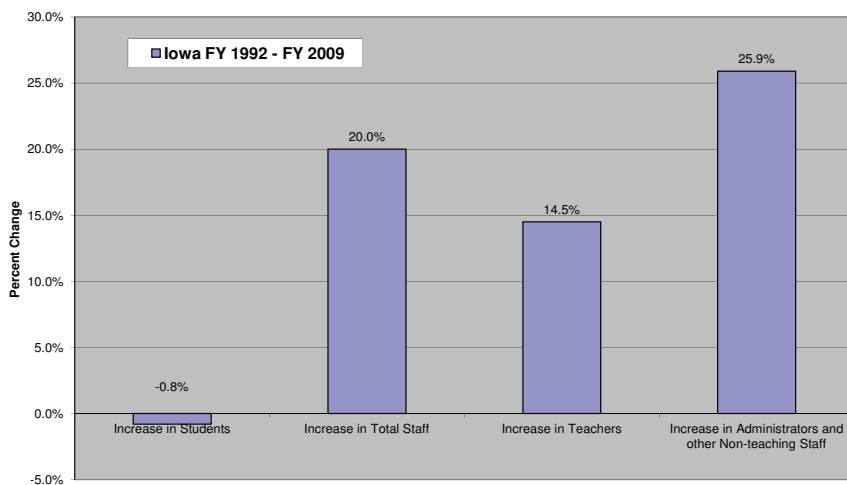
In addition, scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Long-Term Trend exam for 17-year-old students in public schools have not increased during the time period studied. Between 1992 and 2008, public schools' NAEP reading scores fell slightly while scores in mathematics were stagnant.

After the sizeable increase in the teaching force and the dramatic upsurge in the hiring of non-teaching personnel, student achievement in American public schools has been roughly flat or modestly in decline. As more adults gain employment in public schools, there is no evidence their numbers are leading to improved academic outcomes for students. And this increase in staffing has a significant opportunity cost.

If non-teaching personnel had grown at the same rate as the growth in students and if the teaching force had grown

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Growth in Students and Staff



Have you renewed your membership with Public Interest Institute?

Public Attitudes toward Gun Control

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press, Data Note, December 14, 2012

The Pew Research Center has been tracking attitudes about gun control for nearly 20 years. Our question asks whether it is more important to protect the right of Americans to own guns, or to control gun ownership.

The most recent survey, conducted July 26-29, 2012, shortly after a gunman killed 12 people at a movie theater in Aurora, Colorado, found that 47% said it was more important to control gun ownership, while 46% said it was more important to protect the rights of Americans to own guns.

Opinions were largely unchanged from April 2012, when 45% prioritized gun control and 49% gun rights.

Opinion about gun control has been divided since early 2009, shortly after Barack Obama's election. From 1993 through 2008, majorities had said it was more important to control gun ownership than to protect gun rights.

In May 1999, a month after Columbine High School, 65% said it was more important to control gun ownership while 30% said it was more important to protect gun rights. The previous measure, six years earlier (December 1993), found that 57% prioritized gun control while 34% prioritized gun rights.

Recent mass shootings

have had little impact on the public's attitudes toward gun control. That was the case after the Colorado theater shootings; similarly, views of gun control changed little after the January 2011 shooting in Tucson, Arizona.

In April 2007, following the large-scale shooting at Virginia Tech University, 60% said it was more important to control gun ownership, which was little changed from 58% in February 2004.

The partisan gap in attitudes about gun control has widened considerably in recent years.

In July 2012 71% of Republicans said it was more important to protect the right of Americans to own guns while just 26% said it was more important to control gun ownership.

Among Democrats, opinion was roughly the reverse: 72% said it was more important to control gun ownership while 21% prioritized gun rights.

Independents were divided: 50% said it was more important to protect gun rights; 43% said gun control was more important.

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Gun Ownership: Just Facts

This research is based upon the most recent data in 2010, updated 2012. It is our mission to minimize subjective information and to provide highly factual content.

Firearm General Facts

* Firearms are generally classified into three broad types: (1) handguns, (2) rifles, and (3) shotguns. Rifles and shotguns are both considered "long guns."

* A semi-automatic firearm fires one bullet each time the trigger is pulled and automatically loads another bullet for the next pull of the trigger. A fully automatic firearm fires multiple bullets with the single pull of the trigger.

Ownership

* As of 2009, the United States has a population of 307 million.

* Based on production data from firearm manufacturers, there are roughly 300 million firearms owned by civilians in the United States as of 2010. Of these, about 100 million are handguns.

* In the same poll, gun owners stated they own firearms for the following reasons:

| 2010 | Households With a Gun | Adults Owning a Gun | Adults Owning a Handgun |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Percentage | 40-45% | 30-34% | 17-19% |
| Number | 47-53 million | 70-80 million | 40-45 million |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Protection Against Crime | 67% |
| Target Shooting | 66% |
| Hunting | 41% |

Crime and Self-Defense

* Roughly 16,272 murders were committed in the United States during 2008. About 10,886 or 67% were committed with firearms.

* Based on survey data from the Department of Justice, roughly 5,340,000 violent crimes were committed during 2008. These include aggravated assaults, robberies, sexual assaults, rapes, and murders. Of these, about 436,000 or 8% were committed by offenders visibly armed with a gun.

* Based on survey data from a 2000 study published in the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, U.S. civilians use guns to defend themselves and others from crime at least 989,883 times per year.

* A 1982 survey of male felons in 11 state prisons dispersed across the U.S. found:

- 34% had been “scared off, shot at, wounded, or captured by an armed victim”
- 40% had decided not to commit a crime because they “knew or believed that the victim was carrying a gun”
- 69% personally knew other criminals who had been “scared off, shot at, wounded, or captured by an armed victim.”

Vulnerability to Violent Crime

* At the current rate, roughly one in every 240 Americans will be murdered.

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* A Justice Department study based on crime data from 1974-1985 found:

- 42% of Americans will be the victim of a completed violent crime (assault, robbery, rape) in the course of their lives
- 83% of Americans will be the victim of an attempted or completed violent crime.

Chicago

* In 1982, the city of Chicago instituted a ban on handguns, barring civilians from possessing handguns except for those registered prior to the law. The gun had to be re-registered every two years or owners would forfeit their right to possess it. In 1994, the law was amended to require annual re-registration.

* In June 2010, the Supreme Court ruled (5-4) that Chicago’s ban is unconstitutional.

* Since the outset of the Chicago handgun ban, the Chicago murder rate has averaged 17% lower than it was before the law took effect, while the U.S. murder rate has averaged 25% lower.

* Since the Chicago handgun ban, the percentage of Chicago murders committed with handguns has averaged about 40% **higher** than it was before the law took effect.

* In 2005, 96% of the firearm

murder victims in Chicago were killed with handguns.

Firearm Accidents

Fatal

* In 2007, there were 613 fatal firearm accidents in the United States, constituting 0.5% of 123,706 fatal accidents.

Non-Fatal

* In 2007, there were roughly 15,698 emergency room visits for non-fatal firearm accidents, constituting 0.05% of 27.7 million emergency room visits for non-fatal accidents that year.

* These emergency room visits for non-fatal firearm accidents resulted in 5,045 hospitalizations, constituting 0.4% of 1.4 million non-fatal accident hospitalizations.

Source: “Gun Control Facts,” James D. Agresti and Reid K. Smith, Just Facts, September 13, 2010, revised December 10, 2012, <<http://justfacts.com/guncontrol.asp>> Reprint permission granted December 21, 2012.

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“only” 1.5 times as fast as the growth in students, American public schools would have an additional \$37.2 billion to spend per year.

This \$37.2 billion in annual recurring savings could be used:

- to raise every public school teacher’s salary by more than \$11,700 per year
- to more than double taxpayer

funding for early childhood education

- to provide property tax relief
- to lessen fiscal stress on state and local governments
- to give families of each child in poverty more than \$2,600 in cash per child
- to give each child in poverty a voucher worth more than \$2,600 to attend the private school of his or her parents’ choice
- or to support a combination

of the above or for some other worthy purpose.

Reprint permission granted by the Friedman Foundation for Educational Choice, December 2012, <<http://www.edchoice.org/Research/Reports/The-School-Staffing-Surge-Decades-of-Employment-Growth-in-Americas-Public-Schools.aspx>>.

Ben Scafidi is a Professor of Economics and Director of the Economics of Education Policy Center at Georgia College & State University, and Director of Education policy for the Georgia Community Foundation, Inc. His research focuses on education and urban policy. Scafidi received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Virginia and his B.A. in economics from the University of Notre Dame.

Changes in the Staffing and Student Populations in American Public Schools, FY 1992 to FY 2009

| Iowa and Region | Percent Increase in Students | Percent Increase in Total Staff | Percent Increase in Teachers | Percent Increase in Administrators & Non-Teaching Staff |
|-----------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| United States | 17.2% | 38.6% | 32.4% | 45.7% |
| Illinois | 14.3% | 27.8% | 21.5% | 35.9% |
| Missouri | 8.9% | 31.7% | 29.2% | 34.5% |
| Minnesota | 8.1% | 39.5% | 18.2% | 68.2% |
| Wisconsin | 7.3% | 20.8% | 14.2% | 30.3% |
| Nebraska | 4.7% | 25.3% | 6.2% | 48.6% |
| Iowa | -0.8% | 20.0% | 14.5% | 25.9% |
| South Dakota | -3.9% | 24.7% | 4.2% | 55.4% |