

Colorado

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### Get the story straight

Attempting to convince parents that they should not be notified if their minor daughter has an abortion, Peggy Loonan cited Indiana teen-ager Becky Bell. Either she doesn't know the facts, or is hoping you don't.

Becky Bell had a miscarriage in 1988, and died shortly after (but not from the miscarriage). The media (which polls show to be 90 percent pro-abortion) reported abortion advocates' claims that Indiana's parental-notification law forced Beck to seek an illegal "back-alley" abortion to keep her pregnancy a secret, and she supposedly died from it being botched. But left unreported was

Becky Bell's autopsy report, describing her uterus lining as "smooth and glistening," with no signs of an induced abortion. The doctor performing the autopsy stated Beck died of pneumonia, and had experienced a miscarriage. He stated, "There is absolutely no evidence of an induced abortion."

John Curry, former head of the Bethesda Naval Hospital Tissue Bank, said the pathology report indicated massive infection in the lungs, but none in or near the uterus, and added that the pneumonia was "unlikely to originate from a contaminated abortion procedure."

Former abortionist and co-founder of NARAL, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, concluded from studying that autopsy report, "Rebecca Bell did not die from a septic illegal abortion: There is not one shred of credible evidence to support this preposterous claim."

It's ironic that Loonan labeled all who disagree with her position as religious fanatics licking their chops and targeting our daughters, and right-wing extremists out of touch with mainstream parents. A 1990 poll by NBC News and the *Wall Street Journal* indicated three-fourths of Americans favor parental-notification laws for abortion. While I don't object to Loonan expressing her opinion, I feel her arguments are based on propaganda, not truth. Her paranoid rhetoric undermines her whole letter.

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