

MEDIA RELEASE

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Woman wearing Pro-Life lapel pin denied entry Into National Gallery of Art

Washington D.C., January 28, 2010 – On January 23, 2010, a pro-life supporter's entry into the National Gallery of Art was prohibited by security guards because she was wearing a pro-life Impact73.org lapel pin. Meghan Duke, a pro-life advocate and blogger at First Things.com, believes the security guards were looking for pro-life buttons due to the March for Life that took place on January 22nd.

"While visiting the National Gallery of Art this past Saturday, I ran into a pair of errant security guards who have taken to interpreting the Constitution in their spare time," Duke wrote in her blog post at the First Things website on Wednesday, January 27th.

After the security guards searched her bag, the guards at the gallery informed Duke, "You're good to go in, but first you need to remove that pro-life pin. He was indicating the small lime green pin with the message 'impact73.org' and the silhouette of a small hand inside that of a larger hand that I had attached to the lapel of my coat," Duke stated.

According to Duke's blog, the two security guards cited that wearing the pro-life pin in a federal building was a violation of the First Amendment of the Constitution. When Duke asked for a written copy of the rule that denied her entry into the Gallery, the guards informed her that the rules were not available for public viewing.

Impact73.org distributed more than 4,500 buttons to at the March for Life to raise awareness of the organizations goal to empower young people throughout the United States to educate their peers and community about the sanctity of human life.

To read more from Ms. Duke's blog, you can find the blog by visiting the First Things website at www.firstthings.com/on_the_square.php.

For more information about impact73.org or to donate, please visit www.impact73.org.

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A sample of the
button worn by Ms.
Dukes