

1 **DECLARATION OF PAMELA HYINK, S.L.P.**

2 I, Pamela Hyink, have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this declaration and,  
3 if called as a witness, I could and would testify competently thereto under oath. I declare as  
4 follows:

5 1. I am a Speech Language Pathologist (S.L.P), and I currently operate a private practice in  
6 Boulder, Colorado.

7 2. I have been a practicing therapist for 35 years. I have experience working with the  
8 special needs population, as well as the developmentally disabled.

9 3. I have not physically examined Terri Schiavo, however I base my opinions on my unique  
10 knowledge and experience working with patients in similar conditions, as well as my limited  
11 knowledge regarding Ms. Schiavo's actual condition.

12 4. I often work with people who have feeding disorders or communication problems. I have  
13 not seen Ms. Schiavo, but in the videos that I have seen of her on the Internet, it is apparent to  
14 me that she is communicating. At least she seems to be making attempts to communicate. We  
15 usually consider talking to be the only means of communication, but facial expressions and body  
16 language communicate too. There seems to be a lot of communication going on with Ms.  
17 Schiavo.

18 5. When a patient is unable to use traditional speech they can still be assisted in  
19 communicating. An approach to communication can be specifically generated for each  
20 individual patient in order to meet their needs.

21 6. Many people without the ability to communicate sometimes use eye blinks. There are  
22 "eye gaze communication boards" that assist with communication. I watched the video where  
23 Ms. Schiavo was following the balloon around with her eyes. Perhaps an "eye gaze  
24 communication board" would be beneficial for her.

25 7. Ms. Schiavo deserves communication therapy. There is a lot to be done to determine the

Declarant initials: 

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1 communication that Ms. Schiavo is using. Then that information can be turned into a specific  
2 communication system for her.

3 8. Imagine going to a party and not being able to talk to someone, and see how devastating  
4 it is to not be able to communicate. Communication is inherent in all of us. It is a basic need  
5 and desire. Giving Ms. Schiavo some way to communicate would be appropriate.

6 9. By helping Ms. Schiavo to communicate she will be able to tell us things, such as  
7 whether or not she wants to die, and if she wants a divorce. Everyone needs to understand what  
8 she is trying to say, and that would be possible if consistent patterns of communication were  
9 formed.

10 10. I do not consider Ms. Schiavo to be comatose or vegetative. Just because she does not  
11 communicate, does not mean that she does not comprehend. There is no clue as to what is going  
12 on inside of her head.

13 11. Ms. Schiavo "is there" from what I have observed on the videos. Whoever is referring to  
14 her as a "vegetable" has not worked with very severe cases.

15 I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Colorado that the  
16 foregoing is true and correct.

17 Executed this 4 day of March 2005, in Boulder, Colorado.

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20 Pamela J. Hyeink M.A. (M), SLP  
Pamela Hyeink, S.L.P., Declarant

21 Hyeink JPH  
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