



Family Concerns

"Bridging the Information Gap"

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Planned Parenthood's Paradigm: It's Not Working; We Need More \$

*Federal dollars funding failed strategies;
it is time to stop funding Planned Parenthood!*

Rep. Mike Pence (R-Indiana) has introduced a bill in the U.S. House of Representatives that would revoke federal taxpayer funding of abortion. The bill, Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, prohibits the government from funding the nation's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood currently does more than 26 per cent of all abortions performed in the United States according to its own numbers. Last year it received more than \$363 million in revenue from government grants and contracts; it increased the number of abortions it does to 324,008 which represents a 5.8 percent increase from the previous year, setting a record high. Taxpayer dollars are not *technically* allowed to be used directly for abortions, but tax dollars subsidize other expenses which allow other money to be used for abortions . . . in other words accountants shift the money around. Penny Nance, CEO of Concerned Women for America, applauded Rep. Pence's initiative stating in part, "Families all across the country are struggling to make ends meet and put food on the table yet their taxpayer dollars are going to fund the largest abortion provider in the country. This is a reckless, irresponsible and immoral use of government money and should be stopped immediately. Not only is Planned Parenthood the nation's largest abortion provider but they have been caught on unedited video numerous times covering up child rape and abuse and putting young girls back into the arms of their abuser. They are also currently under investigation for overbilling Medicaid and taking unfair advantage of government funding of contraceptives." She called for Congress to swiftly pass this legislation.

Indiana's Planned Parenthood story

One of the states that has investigations pending is Indiana where Planned Parenthood is reporting an increase of more than 2 percent in the number of surgical and drug-induced (RU-486 and the "morning-after pill") abortions it did in 2009. They report they do over 50 per cent of the total chemical and surgical abortions performed in Indiana. The ratio of abortions to pregnancy tests has increased to one abortion for every 3.79 pregnancy tests as compared to one abortion for every 4.25 pregnancy tests in 2009. So much for Planned Parenthood's mantra of making abortion rare. It appears in Indiana, at least, that their words belie the facts. According to the report of Indiana's Planned Parenthood, they made just five placements for adoption in 2010 – 1,116 abortions for every adoption. Their revenue is reported at \$15,679,306 in 2010 with \$2,008,760 coming from government contracts and grants.

Family planning not reduced

Pence's bill would not reduce the total amount of funds available for family planning, but it would block organizations that provide abortions from receiving the funds. This strategy ensures that businesses performing abortions like Planned Parenthood will not be subsidized by federal tax dollars.

Planned Parenthood wants more dollars to promote failed contraception

Planned Parenthood routinely claims that abortions would be rarer if only they had more dollars to promote contraception, yet the Guttmacher Institute, the research arm of Planned Parenthood, reports that "54 per cent of women who have abortions had used a contraceptive method (usually condoms or the pill) during the month they became pregnant." The report also noted that "most of these women have practiced contraception in the past." However, in spite of the reported failure of the highly touted (by Planned Parenthood) contraception, Planned Parenthood released a statement, "The first step we can take as a nation is to increase access to affordable contraception. The most effective way to prevent unintended pregnancy, and reduce the need for abortion, is to improve access to affordable birth control." In other words in spite of the fact that over fifty per cent of women who found themselves in an "unintended" pregnancy had used contraception the month they got pregnant, Planned Parenthood wants even more of our tax dollars in a time when people are clamoring for the government to spend their money wisely. The reasons most women give for having an abortion are either financial or an interruption of the mother's plans, so abortion has become the "fail-safe" method of birth control in spite of Planned Parenthood's arguments to the contrary.

Planned Parenthood has integrated drug-induced abortions into its regimen

The fact that Planned Parenthood is relying more on chemical or drug-induced "mini-abortions" is evident in the statistics, even though at least 13 deaths from RU-486 have been reported with many other serious reports from at least 1,100 women in 2006. Many women have been hospitalized with hemorrhages, ruptured ectopic pregnancies and serious infections. The fact that these drugs are administered at home is also troubling; many could be suffering complications that require follow-up care. The median cost of an RU-486 abortion (17 per cent of abortions) is \$490 representing more than \$97.5 million in gross revenues to abortion providers already making millions from surgical abortions. Guttmacher notes that medical (drug-induced) abortions have now become "an integral part of abortion care," with 59 per cent of known abortion providers dispensing this type of abortion.

Most Americans oppose tax payers funding abortion

A majority of Americans self identify as "pro-life"; almost 70 per cent of Americans both pro-life and pro-choice agree that tax dollars should not support abortion.

Action:

Call your U.S. Representative and urge him/her to become a co-sponsor of The Title X Provider Prohibition Act. Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121.