

November 3, 2015

Dear Senator,

As leaders of groups representing millions of Americans nationwide, we are writing today to urge you to support the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act (H.R. 3762), which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on October 23.

This bill uses the reconciliation process to curtail the largest sources of federal funding to Planned Parenthood, those being Medicaid and other mandatory-spending programs – about \$400 million. The funding is re-directed to community health centers, which provide comprehensive health care for women but do not perform abortions.

Planned Parenthood and other abortion businesses do not need or deserve taxpayer funding. Most recently, undercover videos show that Planned Parenthood, America's largest abortion business, has been engaged in unethical and possibly illegal abortion practices connected to the trafficking of unborn children's organs for profit.

The videos reveal a prevalent callousness towards unborn children, as well as a willingness to disregard the rights of the mothers of those children. The videos detail Planned Parenthood's willingness to manipulate abortion methods—at times, in ways that raise questions about whether the ban on partial-birth abortion has been violated—to more easily obtain hearts, lungs, brains, and other organs to be sold to tissue brokers. This, despite the fact that mothers are required to sign a consent form stating that the abortion method will in no way be changed to procure these body parts. Further, the videos show that this manipulation of abortion methods can result in babies being born intact, with a heart beating or able to be restarted – babies that meet explicit federal-law criteria for having been “born alive.”

These videos offer just a glimpse into the abortion industry's day-to-day horrific practices. Over one million abortions are performed annually in the United States, with nearly 330,000 occurring in Planned Parenthood facilities, all the way up to 24 weeks of pregnancy, weeks past the time when recent studies show that a substantial percentage of these children can be saved if treated with the best techniques of modern perinatal medicine.

Regardless of whether Americans identify as pro-life or pro-choice, we should all be able to agree that taxpayer dollars should not be subsidizing an already cash-flush industry. Instead, these tax dollars would be put to better use at local community health centers, which provide the same health services Planned Parenthood does (and usually more), but do not abort the lives of unborn children and callously harvest their body parts for profit.

For these reasons and more, we urge the Senate to act swiftly on H.R. 3762. Using the reconciliation process will ensure that defenders of Planned Parenthood cannot again employ the filibuster to protect funding for this abortion mega-marketer. Sending a bill that defunds Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers to the President's desk will help educate Americans and encourage them to watch the videos about the atrocities committed by Planned Parenthood.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony List

Tony Perkins
President
Family Research Council

Penny Nance
CEO & President
Concerned Women for America Legislative
Action Committee

Tom McClusky
Vice President for Government Affairs
March for Life Action

Kristan Hawkins
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Students for Life of America

Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director
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Gary Bauer
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