

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1201

Statement on Planned Parenthood Funding
by Mr. Sali of Idaho
in the House of Representatives
July 9, 2008

Madam Speaker,

Mother Teresa once said: “Any country that accepts abortion is the poorest of the poor.” On that basis, I fear that our own great country is in serious trouble.

While current law forbids family planning agencies from using federal funds for abortion, those same organizations are able to receive those Title X funds for their other family planning services—even if the organizations also provide and even promote abortion. Today, as long as the bookkeeping of the two divisions is kept separate, these organizations can re-allocate their resources and free up money for providing abortions. In other words, it appears that an accounting gimmick masks the way Planned Parenthood uses federal dollars to fund its abortion services.

As many know, Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of abortion in the country, performing more than 264,000 abortions in 2005. However, Planned Parenthood alone receives more than \$336 million from the federal government each year. Planned Parenthood affiliates enjoy special access to

discount drugs, grants through the Title X program, and a 90 percent federal Medicaid match for family planning activities. In effect, Congress is playing favorites by subsidizing the largest business in the abortion industry.

Lest there be any confusion, abortion *is* an “industry” in every sense of the word. Abortion providers rake in over \$400 million a year from women and girls who believe that they are receiving a simple health service. However, to the tune of \$372 per abortion on average, abortion-providing businesses are turning a major profit. For instance, while Planned Parenthood reports that it is a “not-for-profit” organization, it had an “excess of revenue over expenses” of almost \$56 million in 2005 and \$112 million in 2006.

Remember, this is the same organization that receives over \$336 million in government grants and contracts each year.

I find it outrageous that taxpayer dollars are subsidizing abortion in the United States. The absurdity of this abuse is illustrated by the long-standing Mexico City Policy. Instituted by President Ronald Reagan in 1984, this policy prohibits foreign aid from going to non-governmental *organizations* which provide or promote services related to abortion. If we recognize the importance of prohibiting foreign abortion providers from receiving our taxpayer dollars, our domestic policy should be no different.

I also adamantly oppose funding for an organization like Planned Parenthood that is alleged to have committed substantial fraud. The former vice president of finance and administration of the Los Angeles Planned Parenthood affiliate estimates that affiliates in California overcharged state and federal governments by \$180 million—despite internal and external

warnings that its billing practices were improper. If Planned Parenthood is able to abuse its government support by as much as \$180 million in California alone, imagine the possible magnitude of its fraud nationwide. The federal government clearly has a significant interest in identifying and recovering any excess payments.

However, I believe that *any* funds that support abortion are “excess payments.” We in the federal government have no business providing money to help end a human life. As the Declaration of Independence makes clear, our nation was founded on the idea that our Creator has endowed every person with “certain unalienable Rights”—the first of which is life. Now, 232 years after that document was signed by our predecessors in the First Continental Congress, how is it possible that we in Congress are allowing the money of unsuspecting ordinary Americans to support businesses that specialize in terminating life?

We in Congress are charged by our nation with the responsibility to ensure oversight of federal funds, and it is abundantly clear that providing “excess” funds to abortion providers is *not* the proper use of taxpayer dollars. I call on my colleagues here in the House to end taxpayer subsidies of abortion by ending federal support of Planned Parenthood. Let us thereby begin to restore the richness of spirit Mother Theresa spoke about so eloquently.

Madame Speaker, I yield back my time.