

Rationale for Resolution

The following is a draft resolution for review by the Richland County, Ohio Board of Commissioners endorsing the position to defund the healthcare organization Planned Parenthood.

As a “coalition of conscience” consisting of several pastors of the Body of Christ in Richland County, Ohio, we believe this issue is relevant to the public interests of Richland County citizens and is meaningful to the Board of Commissioners for their approval as a non-binding resolution for the following reasons:

- 1) From July of 2015 to current day, new allegations regarding Planned Parenthood’s operation resulted from the release of a series of undercover videos produced by the Center for Medical Progress. Evidence about this operation depicted in these videos is profoundly evil and nefarious
- 2) Legislation has been proposed in both the U.S. Congress and the Ohio Statehouse for passage and criminal investigations are underway pertaining to the alleged practices of Planned Parenthood.
- 3) The Executive Branch of the federal government recently awarded Planned Parenthood with one million dollars in grants despite ongoing criminal investigations by the Legislative Branch ¹
- 4) Efforts to silence scrutiny of Planned Parenthood has been observed in both the Judicial Branch of the federal government, ² and also the mainstream media where coverage has been minimized ³
- 5) Richland County citizens are forced to fund Planned Parenthood thru federal and state taxes
- 6) Recently in the summer of 2015, the Board of Commissioners passed a non-binding resolution at the request of the Ohio Secretary of State pertaining to election practices
- 7) The many outreach ministries of area congregations in the Body of Christ daily verify its position on speaking truth for moral clarity, as recently modelled in this summer’s countywide call to prayer and repentance by pastors from sixty-six local congregations

Richland County, Ohio

Proposed Resolution

A statement supporting the defunding of Planned Parenthood at both the state and federal levels of government

Whereas, the use of ultrasound technology inside a pregnant mother's womb displaying an infant's heartbeat and other vital bodily functions further validates that every human being is sacred, made in the image of the Creator, and has inalienable rights no matter what age or status,⁴

Whereas, since 1973 when the U.S. Supreme Court first declared that abortion was legal, there have been approximately fifty-eight million babies that have been aborted,⁵ surpassing the number of Jews believed to be killed during the Holocaust by nearly ten-fold,

Whereas, Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of abortion in the United States, conducting 327,653 abortions in 2014,⁶ performing one of every three abortions in the U.S.,⁷

Whereas, African American parents are five times more likely to get abortions than Caucasian American parents, and with these disproportional numbers, .abortion happens to be the leading cause of death for African Americans since 1973,⁸

Whereas, in 2013, \$540 million federal taxpayer dollars,⁹ and \$ 1.3 million state taxpayer dollars¹⁰ are being used to fund Planned Parenthood despite fact that the organization is independently wealthy with nearly one billion dollars of net assets,¹¹

Whereas, Planned Parenthood is currently under investigation as a result of a series of videos released beginning on July 14th, 2015 revealing in the first video: Planned Parenthood director admitting her staff is trained to ensure livers, lungs, kidneys and hearts of aborted babies are intact so that they can be used by researchers; (*consequently, buying and selling human body parts is a violation of federal law*)....revealing in the second video::a president of the medical director's council of Planned Parenthood giving specific dollar figures to specific harvested body parts of aborted babies.... revealing in the third video: a former procurement technician for Planned Parenthood's business partner StemExpress stating she worked at Planned Parenthood facilities identifying pregnant women who met the standards for "fetal tissue orders" and then harvested the unborn baby's body parts after the abortion was completed....revealing in the fourth video (total of twelve videos): a vice president of Planned Parenthood stating that she would see how much she could get out of the corpse of an aborted child's body....¹²

Whereas, Planned Parenthood has a history of investigations for fraud, with numerous instances of misappropriation uncovered by state audits,¹³

Whereas, there is a clear conflict of interest with Planned Parenthood lobbying interests with taxpayer dollars funding and favoring one political party over the other,¹⁴

Whereas, ending forced taxpayer funding on Planned Parenthood will not cause low-income women to go without needed health care, there are 13,540 health clinics across the country, versus 665 Planned Parenthood locations, if federal funding from Planned Parenthood is eliminated, and that money could go towards health care providers that already better serve women,¹⁵

Whereas, the Mansfield-Ontario Richland County Health Department terminated its contract and discontinued all funding of the local Planned Parenthood of North Central Ohio at its board of health meeting on October 18 2004,

Whereas, this year New Hampshire, Utah, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Alabama have decided to end forced taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood, and. thirteen states have launched investigations into Planned Parenthood,¹⁶

Therefore, we advise that the U.S. Congress add an amendment in the 2015 Budget Bill to end forced taxpayer funding of Planned Parenthood and not pass a bill defunding Planned Parenthood as a stand-alone bill that will likely be vetoed by the President. We also advise the Ohio State Legislature to present to the Governor, legislation to be signed by his office to discontinue forced taxpayer funding to the Planned Parenthood organization. And lastly, we support criminal investigation and criminal prosecution of those individuals who have broken existing laws.

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Respectfully submitted by:

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Reverend James Streib, Fusion Community
Reverend Patrick Bailey, North Bend Church of Brethren
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Reverend Eric Byrom, Grace Fellowship
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Reverend James Spencer, Peoples' Baptist
Reverend Mark Barth, Real Life Community
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Reverend Bruce Philippi, Journey Life Center
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Reverend Ron Puff, Pleasant Valley Baptist
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Reverend Dallas Waggle, Lucas Foursquare
Reverend Dave Guild, Mansfield Foursquare
Reverend Art Kennard, Maranatha Christian Center
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