

How Many Votes Is A Dead Baby Worth?

On June 2 Governor Mitch Daniels signed legislation that prohibits taxpayer funds from going to the Indiana operations of the nation's number one abortion mill, Planned Parenthood. Not surprisingly, Planned Parenthood immediately filed suit against the new law—apparently believing it has a Constitutional right to forcibly take money from one person in order to perform an abortion on another.

U.S. District Judge Tanya Walton said she will issue a ruling by July 1, but refused to issue an injunction against the legislation—which also bans abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy (at which point it has been shown that the fetus feels the pain of its skull being split open so that its brains can be sucked out by a vacuum device). Walton's refusal to issue an injunction suggests to some that she is leaning against the baby-killers.

Not content to wait for a ruling by Judge Walton, Planned Parenthood used its considerable political influence to pressure Obama—one of the most pro-abortion politicians ever to serve in the Illinois State Senate, the U.S. Senate, or the Oval Office—who quickly dispatched the Department of Health and Human Services to intimidate Indiana. Donald Berwick, Obama's controversial administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, threatened the state with the withholding of *all* Medicaid funds if it refused to fund Planned Parenthood. (Berwick got his job via a "recess appointment" by Obama, who acted while the Senate was not in session because he knew the ardent supporter of socialized medicine would be grilled mercilessly at his confirmation hearings.)

Planned Parenthood makes the claim that it does not use taxpayer funds for abortions, but it does not maintain separate accounting for abortion procedures versus other aspects of its operations. The State of Indiana notes that there is no record that Planned Parenthood of Indiana (PPIN) "makes any effort to either segregate Medicaid reimbursements from other unrestricted revenue sources or to allocate the cost of its various lines of business, whether abortion, family planning, cancer screenings, or other services. This indicates that, while PPIN may not receive Medicaid reimbursements directly related to abortions, the Medicaid reimbursements it does receive are pooled or comingled [sic] with other monies it receives and thus help to pay for total operational costs." Daniels said that "any organization affected by this provision [of the new law] can resume receiving taxpayer dollars immediately by ceasing or separating its operations that perform abortions." (Planned Parenthood's argument reminds me of a beggar I once encountered. Sitting on a curb smoking a cigarette, she asked, "Can you give me \$5," she asked. I responded, "How can I be sure you will spend that \$5 on food, rather than cigarettes?" She declared, "Oh, no, I've *got* smoking money.")

Planned Parenthood's primary business is providing abortions. In 2008 it took in an estimated \$152 million for more than 324,000 abortions. Dr. Alveda King, the niece of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has criticized the NAACP for its double-standards, saying, "NAACP, you're still supporting Planned Parenthood, which is one of the most racist organizations in America today, and they have proven that over and

over. Their founder [Margaret Sanger] certainly thought that black people were like human weeds that needed to be exterminated. So [NAACP's] support of Planned Parenthood is just saying that they are ready to renounce racism when it's inconvenient to them but to support racism when it's beneficial to them." Sanger did in fact refer to blacks as "human weeds." She also said, "The most merciful thing that a large family can do to one of its infants is to kill it." In March, 2009 Secretary of State Hillary Clinton received the Margaret Sanger Award from Planned Parenthood, for her "leadership, excellence, and outstanding contributions to the reproductive health and rights movement." In accepting her award Clinton stated, "Yet we know that Margaret Sanger's work here in the United States and certainly across our globe is not done." (To Clinton, 324,000 abortions per year is apparently not nearly enough.)

Mike Fichter, the director of Indiana Right to Life, told LifeNews.com, "The Obama administration appears to be intent on trying to force Indiana to subsidize the business of abortion in direct contrast to the desires of the state legislature and the people of Indiana. Indiana must refuse to be bullied by the federal government and must challenge this politically-charged determination with full vigor. The state of Indiana has a right to determine how it will manage its Medicaid program and to select the providers it will partner with. Planned Parenthood is not entitled to public funding."

Because Obama cannot afford to lose the pro-abortion voters—his most passionate supporters—he cannot sit idly by and watch the states recognize and apply their Tenth Amendment rights by passing laws restricting the gruesome procedure. If the courts rule in favor of Indiana other states will surely follow with similar legislation, and many of the voters who go to the polls on the basis of their pro-abortion views may stay home on election day 2012. Obama was therefore forced to act against Indiana. Yet he carried the state by only 26,000 votes in 2008 (less than one percent). Obama's pro-abortion action (in addition to a disastrous economy) may easily cost him that state in 2012, but if he does not fight the Indiana legislation he will anger pro-abortion voters across the country—and that may cause him to lose other states. Obama's support for abortion, when a majority of Americans oppose the practice, forces him to take political risks that may contribute to his defeat in 2012. (Live by the vacuum device, die by the vacuum device.)

Approximately one out of six Americans is currently on Medicaid (compared with one out of 50 in 1965), and a large number of them live in Gary and Indianapolis. Obama won Indiana in 2008 primarily because of support from the poorer residents of those two cities—most of the rest of the state voted for John McCain. Obama therefore won the state with the votes of Medicaid recipients. One might wonder how they will vote in 2012 if they realize that Obama was willing to trade their Medicaid coverage for dead babies.

Don Fredrick
June 9, 2011

