

From: Denise Leipold

Sent: Tuesday, August 28, 2018 4:08 PM

To: Koehler, Ron; Schmidt, John; Rodgers, Gloria; Wilhite, Jeff; Hamilton, David; Feeman, Jerry; Soyars, Michael; Prentice, Paula; Donofrio, John; Walters, Elizabeth; Dickinson, Clair

Subject: proposed resolution 2018-335

Thank you for the opportunity to address you at the committee meeting on Monday. I was dismayed, however, to hear Mr. Dodson effectively call me a liar and dispute what I had been given 3 minutes to testify about without allowing me a rebuttal. I am contacting you now to assure you that the information I gave was indeed correct, and to provide you with additional information that you should consider before voting on the resolution at a full council meeting.

The 1970 law establishing Title X funds (pre-dating the legalization of abortion) states that *“none of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning”*. Once abortion became legal in 1973, however, the law was loosely interpreted to allow Title X programs to refer patients for abortion, be co-located within abortion clinics, and lobby for pro-abortion policies as long as the federal dollars did not directly fund abortions. This blurred interpretation allowed federal dollars to indirectly fund abortion because of the fungibility of the dollars received, especially by abortion giant Planned Parenthood. While the Title X funds didn't directly pay for the abortion itself, the abortion clinics shared the same workspace, utilities, staff, etc., and could not conceivably separate the expenses. In 1988, the Health and Human Services department issued a regulation to end these practices that blurred the line between funding contraception/family planning (*the purpose of the Title X funds*) and the promotion of abortion. This regulation was upheld by SCOTUS in a 5-4 decision in the case of *Rust v Sullivan*. By the time the regulation would actually have been enforced, the Clinton administration ended it and it has never been attempted to be reinstated until now.

The “Protect Life Rule” being proposed by HHS is consistent with the original intent of Title X which is to clearly separate Title X funds from abortion. Abortion is NOT health care nor is it family planning. This rule supports the majority pro-life view of Americans, and also supports those that although they may be pro-abortion, they do not believe that tax dollars should pay for abortion.

Planned Parenthood receives roughly \$50-60 million dollars in Title X funds. The overall amount of federal dollars they receive in Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements totals well over \$500 million dollars annually. If they do lose Title X funds, they will still receive the bulk of the federal tax dollars provided under Medicare/Medicaid reimbursements to continue providing the health care which Mr. Dodson proclaimed will be denied because of the rule change. They can also continue to receive the Title X funds if they split their abortion business off from their health care business.

According to Planned Parenthood's most recent annual report, the numbers confirm that abortion is the biggest part of their business. Abortions made up 96% of their pregnancy resolution services, while prenatal care, miscarriage care and adoption referrals accounted for only 2.3%, 0.4% and 1.2% respectively. Prenatal care (which is available at only a select few of their locations) dropped nearly 18% over the last year, and dropped more than 60% over the past 5 reporting years. For every adoption referral in 2016, they performed more than 82 abortions. Over the past 5 reported years, the ratio was 126 abortions for every adoption referral.

According to the last 5 annual reports:

- total services are down roughly 13%;

- total cancer screening and prevention services have dropped by more than 41%, including declines of approximately 39% for breast exams and 43% for pap tests;
- contraceptive services are down nearly 28%;
- patients have dropped by 600,000, or a 20% decline;
- Approximately 100 (14%) of Planned Parenthood facilities have closed their doors. (The charts I provided with my original testimony are a few years old. There are now less than 600 Planned Parenthood locations. However, the amount of alternatives have increased so that there are now more than 20 alternatives to each Planned Parenthood, which are located in a many more locations that are more easily accessible to more prospective clients.)
- In addition, Planned Parenthood received more than \$500 million dollars in annual donations which has greatly increased since President Trump assumed office, mostly due to false rhetoric.

I have been advocating and educating about life issues and the sanctity of human life for a long time. As part of this, I stay current on research and law, and am well versed and current on statistical, financial and other information as it relates to this. Title X funds were never intended to be used for abortion as clearly stated in the statute. Federal law, along with common sense, morality and ethics, states that abortion is NOT a method of family planning. The information I have provided in this e-mail regarding Planned Parenthood's annual report is factual, and I can provide you with the exact location in the reports that this information was taken from. No amount of rhetoric or false information (*like Mr. Dodson saying that thousands would lose their health care if Planned Parenthood were denied these funds*) can change the facts.

As I mentioned in my testimony, I fully comprehend that the legality of abortion is established law. Until that changes, the primary mission of my organization is to educate and advocate on behalf of life so that choices can be made BEFORE someone becomes pregnant. Title X funds should be used for this purpose, and since according to their own annual reports the financial focus of Planned Parenthood is abortion, they should not be receiving the Title X funds. Summit County Council should not be a mouthpiece for advocating for Planned Parenthood as Mr. Dodson publicly confirmed this resolution was about.

I would be happy to provide any further proof or documentation to back up each and every item or to discuss this with you in further detail.

Denise Leipold

Executive Director

Right to Life of Northeast Ohio

572 W. Market St. Ste. 2

Akron, OH 44303

330-762-2785

www.RightToLifeofNortheastOhio.com

Life Education Fund is a 501c3 affiliate with Right to Life of Northeast Ohio

“Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to death; don’t stand back and let them die. Don’t try to avoid responsibility by saying you didn’t know about it. For God knows all hearts and He sees you. He keeps watch over your soul, and He knows you knew! And He will judge all people according to what they have done.” Proverbs 24:11