



204 SW 8TH AVE • TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603 • PHONE 785-227-9247 • FAX 785-861-7438 • WWW.KSCATHCONF.ORG

March 2, 2016

Senator Ty Masterson
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
Kansas Senate
Topeka, KS 66612

Re: SB 436

Dear Chairman Masterson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for offering the opportunity to submit comments on SB 436. The Kansas Catholic Conference supports this legislation.

SB 436 would have the highly desirable effect of denying the nation's largest abortion provider access to Title X family planning funds. Desirable, because Planned Parenthood should be disqualified from access to *any* public money. Planned Parenthood performs more than 300,000 abortions per year in the United States. The organization's claim that abortion represents only 3% of the services it provides is extremely misleading. According to a recent report by the Heritage Foundation¹:

How does the Planned Parenthood annual report arrive at the 3 percent figure? The calculation counts each "discrete clinical interaction" as a separate "medical service," meaning simple tests or routine provision of birth control are given the same weight as surgical or chemical abortions. For example, if a woman in the course of a year receives a free condom, a pregnancy test, a sexually transmitted infection (STI) test, and an abortion, Planned Parenthood would say abortion was only 25 percent of the services provided.

As for Planned Parenthood's claim that it provides prenatal care and adoption referral services? The same report observes that "Planned Parenthood affiliates perform about 20 abortions for every prenatal care visit and about 200 abortions for every adoption referral." These facts give a clearer picture of the centrality of abortion to Planned Parenthood's business model.

MOST REVEREND JOHN B. BRUNGARDT, D.D.
DIOCESE OF DODGE CITY

MOST REVEREND JOSEPH F. NAUMANN, D.D.
Chairman of Board
ARCHDIOCESE OF KANSAS CITY IN KANSAS

MOST REVEREND EDWARD J. WEISENBURGER, J.C.L.
DIOCESE OF SALINA

MOST REVEREND CARL A. KEMME, D.D.
DIOCESE OF WICHITA

MICHAEL M. SCHUTTLOFFEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While Title X family planning funds are not allowed to be used for abortion, they nonetheless support Planned Parenthood's operations, enabling their abortion business. Money is fungible, so funding that Planned Parenthood puts into one budget line frees up funds for other aspects of their business. In short, regardless of whichever of Planned Parenthood's bank accounts Title X funding might be deposited in, no taxpayer dollars should support this legally and morally compromised organization.

In the final analysis, no amount of political spin can conceal the stark fact that Planned Parenthood destroys innocent and defenseless human beings for money. That is their business. Yet somehow, Planned Parenthood receives over \$500 million in taxpayer financing each year in the United States, which represents over 40% of its funding. If we are to build a culture of life in this country, we must begin by ending this practice of requiring taxpayer complicity in the abortion industry's barbarism.

In one of last summer's undercover videos that the abortion industry is so desperate to suppress, a Planned Parenthood employee, peddling fetal body parts over wine, declared: "I want a Lamborghini." Passage of SB 436 will, unfortunately, not shut Planned Parenthood's doors in Kansas. But at the very least, perhaps some of its employees will have to settle for Chevys.

Michael Schuttloffel
Executive Director

¹ <http://www.heritage.org/research/reports/2015/09/disentangling-the-data-on-planned-parenthood-affiliates-abortion-services-and-receipt-of-taxpayer-funding>