

THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS LIBERTY COMMISSION

OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION



Richard Land, D.Phil. (*Oxon.*), President

July 21, 2009

The Honorable Mike Pence
U.S. House of Representatives
1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Pence:

We write to express our strong support for your proposed amendment to prohibit Title X funding for Planned Parenthood under the FY2010 Labor, Health, and Human Services Appropriations Act.

The Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission espouses a belief shared by millions of Americans that each human life, born and unborn, is sacred and worthy of protection. As a result, the denial of federal funding for Planned Parenthood is more than simply prudent policy to help reduce the number of abortions. It is a moral imperative. It is unconscionable for Congress to direct even a single dollar of taxpayer money to the nation's largest abortion provider, given that the organization specializes in a practice that violates the core convictions of millions of Americans. No person should be forced at the behest of the government's special interests to compromise his or her conscience on matters of protecting life.

We wholeheartedly appreciate your efforts to ensure that taxpayers are not forced to subsidize an organization that provided more than 305,000 abortions in 2007. We hope your colleagues will lend their full support to your amendment to the Labor-HHS bill to deny Title X funds to Planned Parenthood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard D. Land".

Richard D. Land