

Planned Parenthood – background on this Pence Initiative

At the start of the 111th Congress, on the day of the National March for Life, Congressman **Pence** reintroduced the **Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act (H.R.614)**. The bill seeks to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Service from providing any federal family planning assistance to an entity unless the entity certifies that, during the period of such assistance, the entity will not perform, and will not provide any funds to any other entity that performs, an abortion. The bill excludes an abortion where the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or an act of incest against a minor or a physician certifies that the woman suffered from a physical disorder, injury, or illness that would place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed, including a condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy.

The bill has 82 cosponsors. **The National Right to Life, Family Research Council, Concerned Women of America, Eagle Forum** and others continue to urge their members to encourage their representatives to cosponsor the bill.

On July 19, 2007 Congressman **Pence** offered an amendment to the **Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2008**. The amendment stated that “None of the funds made available under this Act shall be available to Planned Parenthood for any purpose under title X of the Public Health Services Act.” The vote on the amendment failed, 189-231. However, it was a very significant victory to garner 189 Members of Congress to go on record to deny annual, federal appropriations to Planned Parenthood – including sixteen Democrats. The Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, originally introduced in the 110th Congress (H.R. 4133) is a stand-alone bill in the spirit of the appropriations amendment.

During the FY09 appropriations season, the Democrats did not give an opportunity to offer amendments to individual appropriation bills, but rather passed CRs and ultimately combined Labor-HHS with other appropriations bills together in one FY09 Omnibus Appropriations bill (H.R. 1105). Congressman **Pence** supported Congressman **Doug Lamborn**'s effort to offer an amendment to the FY09 Omnibus in the Rules Committee to restrict funding for Planned Parenthood.

Congressman **Pence** joined **Pete Olson** and other Members in sending a letter to GAO requesting the amount of funding Planned Parenthood has received since 2003.

Congressman **Pence** continues to seek cosponsors to the **Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act (H.R.614)** in order to solidify and expand the potential vote on an appropriations amendment to defund Planned Parenthood.