

Stop All Public Funding to Abortion Providers

The Texas Catholic Conference *supports an end to all state funding to abortion providers.*

Some parts of the world still experience practices of demographic control, on the part of governments that often promote contraception and even go so far as to impose abortion. In economically developed countries, legislation contrary to life is very widespread, and it has already shaped moral attitudes and praxis, contributing to the spread of an anti-birth mentality; frequent attempts are made to export this mentality to other States as if it were a form of cultural progress. *(Pope Benedict XVI, Caritas in Veritate)*

A Texas Bishop Speaks:

"We are not asking that the government adopt a religious creed. We are demanding that it stand in favor of life, not death. It is not humane for a government that claims to protect what is good in human life and society to stand indifferent to the choice between the life and death of an unborn child. At the very least, the government should promote the option for life."



-Bishop Daniel Flores, Diocese of Brownsville

Church Teaching

- ★ When it is not possible to overturn or completely abrogate a pro-abortion law, an elected official, whose absolute personal opposition to procured abortion was well known, could licitly support proposals aimed at limiting the harm done by such a law and at lessening its negative consequences at the level of general opinion and public morality. This does not in fact represent an illicit cooperation with an unjust law, but rather a legitimate and proper attempt to limit its evil aspects. *(Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae)*
- ★ When the sense of God is lost, the sense of man is also threatened and poisoned...Man is no longer able to see himself as "mysteriously different" from other earthly creatures; he regards himself merely as one more living being, as an organism which, at most, has reached a very high stage of perfection. Enclosed in the narrow horizon of his physical nature, he is somehow reduced to being "a thing", and no longer grasps the "transcendent" character of his "existence as man". He no longer considers life as a splendid gift of God, something "sacred" entrusted to his responsibility and thus also to his loving care and "veneration". Life itself becomes a mere "thing", which man claims as his exclusive property, completely subject to his control and manipulation. *(Pope John Paul II, Evangelium Vitae)*
- ★ Thus the Church condemns as a grave offense against human dignity and justice all those activities of governments or other public authorities which attempt to limit in any way the freedom of couples in deciding about children. Consequently, any violence applied by such authorities in favor of contraception or, still worse, of sterilization and procured abortion, must be altogether condemned and forcefully rejected. Likewise to be denounced as gravely unjust are cases where, in international relations, economic help given for the advancement of peoples is made conditional on programs of contraception, sterilization and procured abortion. *(Pope John Paul II, Familiaris Consortio)*

Resources

- ★ **US Conference of Catholic Bishops** Abortion page (www.USCCB.org/prolife/issues/abortion/)
- ★ **National Catholic Bioethics Center** (www.NCBCenter.org)

Stop all State Funding to Abortion Providers

The Texas Catholic Conference supports an end to all state funding for abortion providers, to ensure that taxpayer dollars do not subsidize the killing of innocent human life. Government funding to an entity often lends that entity credibility in the eyes of the public. It is deceiving for taxpayer funding to promote abortion providers to women seeking health services. We do support the funding of community health centers and abortion alternatives providers, who do not provide for abortion in any organizational capacity.

State Funding to Abortion Providers:

Section 32.0248, Human Resources Code, prohibits payment of Women's Health Program (WHP) funds to perform elective abortions or to a provider that performs elective abortions. A provider that has performed elective abortions (through either surgical or medical methods) for any patient cannot be reimbursed for a WHP-covered service. Section 32.0248 has been in effect since September 1, 2005. However, the state has continued to provide WHP funding to affiliates of abortion providers. Attorney General Greg Abbott is expected to rule on an opinion request regarding the constitutionality of this practice.

Federal Funding for Abortion

Currently Texas only provides direct funding for abortion from federal Medicaid dollars. This is because of provisions set forth in the Hyde Amendment that require states to use federal Medicaid dollars to fund abortions in cases of incest, rape, or life endangerment.ⁱ Texas is one of 26 states that fund Medicaid funding at the minimum set by the Hyde Amendment—the remaining states have expanded Medicaid funding for abortion.ⁱⁱ

South Dakota, however, passed the South Dakota Women's Health and Human Life Protection Act in 2006, which limits the use of federal Medicaid dollars for abortion to only as needed to preserve both the life of the mother and the life of her unborn child. The law specifically prohibits a "procedure upon a pregnant woman with the specific intent of causing or abetting the termination of the life of an unborn human being." It also included the statement that a "physician shall make reasonable medical efforts under the circumstances to preserve both the life of the mother and the life of her unborn child in a manner consistent with conventional medical practice." The law however was repealed in a voter referendum later that year.

Fund Abortion Alternatives

Rather than fund abortion, which hurts a mother and ends the life of her child, we support funding for abortion alternative providers, social service agencies that offer support for mothers who choose life. They generally provide free pregnancy tests, unbiased options counseling, referrals to obstetricians and gynecologists, as well as material support in the form of baby clothes, furniture, formula, diapers and maternity clothes. These providers offer true guidance to women in crisis pregnancies and aid in decreasing the number of abortions in Texas.

(Last updated August 9, 2010, 82nd Legislative Session)

ⁱ Boonstra, Heather D. "The Heart of the Matter: Public Funding of Abortion for Poor Women in the United States." [Guttmacher Institute](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/gpr/10/1/gpr100112.html). Winter 2007. <www.guttmacher.org/pubs/gpr/10/1/gpr100112.html>.

ⁱⁱ State Funding of Abortion Under Medicaid." [Guttmacher Institute](http://www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_sfam.pdf). 1 Aug. 2008. <www.guttmacher.org/statecenter/spibs/spib_sfam.pdf>.