



January 22, 2007

Hon. Bill Ritter
136 State Capitol
Denver, CO 80203

Governor Ritter,

Congratulations on being sworn in as the Governor of Colorado. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Your recent State of the State address was a turning point for the state of Colorado. Your leadership will be an important part of addressing the issues that face this state.

We are, however, concerned about your statements regarding state funding of so-called “family planning” groups like Planned Parenthood.

In your speech you stated:

“I intend to restore the eligibility requirements for state funding for pregnancy-prevention and family planning programs.”

From your statements we believe that you may attempt to provide taxpayer funding for abortion clinics like Planned Parenthood. We echo the concerns of your faith’s local spiritual leader, Archbishop Charles Chaput, “It’s hard to have a future ‘for our children and our children’s children’ without children, and in practice, Planned Parenthood specializes in the business of preventing them.” Planned Parenthood has a long history of participating in the destruction of human life.

It is important to note that Article V. Section 50 of the Colorado Constitution prohibits the direct or indirect use of taxpayer funds for abortions. The Statute’s text follows:

*No public funds shall be used by the State of Colorado, its agencies or political subdivisions to pay or otherwise reimburse, **either directly or indirectly, any person, agency or facility for the performance of any induced abortion...** [emphasis added]*

This amendment to the state constitution was passed twice by the will of the people of Colorado; once in 1984 and again in 1988.

Under the direction of the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Greeley firm of Anderson and Whitney conducted an independent audit of Planned Parenthood finances and it was determined that it was impossible to separate their so-called “family planning” programs from their abortion services.

You have spoken across the state about the “Colorado Promise”. You have spoken eloquently about your Roman Catholic faith and your pro-life views.

Governor Ritter, you called the state budget a “moral document”. You said that your election as governor was about “every baby born in Colorado,” and that the election was about “our future and how we as a state go forward in fulfilling the “Colorado Promise.”

We believe that you have a moral obligation not only to the will of the people of Colorado but to the children, born and unborn, of this state.

Governor Ritter, to put it plainly, we ask that you respect the will of the people of Colorado, and not subvert the state Constitution by allocating taxpayer dollars to abortion clinics like Planned Parenthood.

All children deserve a chance to aspire to their part of the “Colorado Promise”, that is why we are introducing a bill to ban abortions in Colorado. I hope that we can count on your support for this important measure as it begins the legislative process.

Sincerely,

Sen. Scott Renfroe
Senate District 13

Rep. Kent Lambert
House District 14

Co-signed by:

Sen. Greg Brophy
Senate District 1

Sen. Ted Harvey
Senate District 30

Rep. Cory Gardner
House District 63

Rep. Jim Kerr
House District 28

Sen. Mike Kopp
Senate District 22

Rep. Kevin Lundberg
House District 49

Rep. Mike May
House District 44

Rep. Frank McNulty
House District 43

Rep. Victor Mitchell
House District 45

Rep. Marsha Looper
House District 19

Sen. Josh Penry
Senate District 7

Sen. Dave Schultheis
Senate District 9

Rep. Amy Stephens
House District 20

Rep. Jerry Sonnenberg
House District 65

Rep. Debbie Stafford
House District 40

Rep. Spencer Swalm
House District 37

Rep. Ken Summers
House District 22

Sen. Tom Wiens
Senate District 4