

# Catholic Daughters of the Americas

National Headquarters

OPERATION MORNING STAR

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"Operation Morningstar"

## ***U.S. House votes to defund Planned Parenthood— forces Senate to go on record on abortion***

By a margin of 241-185, the United States House of Representatives voted to withhold federal funds from Planned Parenthood of America, the nation's largest abortion provider. Reflecting confidence in the increasing number of pro-life members since the 2010 election, Speaker of the House John Boehner called for a Senate vote on federal funds for Planned Parenthood as a condition of House approval of the fiscal year 2011 federal budget.

At the same time, the House voted to reduce funding to the United Nations Family Planning Agency and reinstated the ban on abortions performed in the District of Columbia with federal monies.

The following day the Senate rejected the bill by a vote of 42-58. Although the result was a pro-abortion vote, each member of the Senate is now clearly on record by name as pro-abortion or pro-life well in advance of the 2012 election. Pro-life members of the House touted this vote as a moral victory which bodes well for a pro-life Senate after the 2012 elections.

## ***Bishops urge Planned Parenthood funding repeal***

Speaking as the chairman of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Pro-life Activities Committee, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo of Galveston-Houston said, "At a time when federal budget decisions involve hard choices and much sacrifice," a decision on whether to fund Planned Parenthood "is not one of those hard choices."

In urging support for the House Concurrent Resolution to exclude any funding for Planned Parenthood or its affiliates, Cardinal DiNardo said Planned Parenthood has aborted more than 5 million babies since 1970, including RU-486 chemical abortions. His letter also said that Planned Parenthood's other services such as prenatal care and adoption referrals have declined markedly.

In commending the actions of the House, Charmaine Yost, President of Americans United for Life, attested to the 332,278 abortions performed by Planned Parenthood in 2009 alone and contended that Planned Parenthood was dispensing RU-486 in contravention of FDA protocol and many state laws.

Undercover pro-lifers posing as child traffickers seeking abortions and contraceptives have recently exposed Planned Parenthood procedures, showing how the organization ignores existing parental notification laws as well as local and state informed consent requirements.

## ***Budget talks delay vote on three pro-life bills;***

Three critical bills which were the subject of a CDA Action Alert in January have been delayed because of budget talks.

## ***H.R.3 The No Taxpayer Funding For Abortion Act:***

Sponsored by Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL), H.R. 3 will accomplish two things: First, it will enact the provisions of the Hyde Amendment concerning federal funding of abortion into permanent law. Second, it will enact conscience rights protections for all avenues of federal funding.

## ***H.R. 358 The Protect Life Act:***

Sponsored by Reps. Joseph Pitts (R-PA) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL), H. R. 358 will apply longstanding federal policies on abortion funding and conscience rights to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

## ***H.R. 361 The Abortion Non-Discrimination Act:***

Sponsored by Reps. John Fleming (R-LA) and Dan Boren (D-OK) H.R. 361 will prevent governmental

discrimination against OB/GYN residency programs that do not provide abortion training (42 USC 238n). The nation's Catholic bishops and many pro-life organizations continue to urge members of Congress to support passage of these vital bills.

### **Defend the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA)**

The House Bi-Partisan Legal Advisory Group has retained the services of former Solicitor General Paul D. Clement to oversee strategy regarding the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The Justice Department declared in February that it would not defend the Defense of Marriage Act. Attorney General Eric Holder speaking for the administration argued that "DOMA's definition of marriage as between one man and one woman is unconstitutional."

The Defense of Marriage Act is currently the subject of several lawsuits brought by such groups as the American Civil Liberties Union, the Gay and Lesbian Advocates, and the Lambda Legal Aid Society in San Francisco. The plaintiffs are generally homosexual couples seeking benefits.

"The executive branch knows that it is expected to vigorously defend Congressional laws!" said Edward Whelan from the Ethics and Public Policy Center. "By refusing to defend DOMA, the administration has subordinated its legal duty to . . . please a favored special interest group.

The Defense of Marriage Act passed in Congress with overwhelming support and was signed by President Clinton. The act defines marriage as between one man and one woman (see *March Operation Morningstar*) and authorizes states not to recognize same-sex unions from other states.

According to Maggie Gallagher, founder of the National Organization for Marriage: Marriage means "the union of one man and one woman for a reason: these are the only unions that create new life.... single sex 'marriage' invites legal recognition of (still) other kinds of relationships such as polygamy."

### **Court of Appeals rules crosses unconstitutional**

The Alliance Defense Fund has petitioned the United States Supreme Court to overturn a lower court ruling that prohibits the display of crosses or other religious icons on public lands.

The petition was filed in reaction to the 10<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision, which holds with the American Atheists, Inc., that privately funded crosses erected on public land constituted a state endorsement of Christianity.

If the Supreme Court does not reverse this decision, similar memorials, including Arlington National Cemetery, could also be challenged.

Supporting the petition, Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council said, "This is another example of the Establishment Clause being turned on its head and being used to prohibit the free exercise of religion. The *Davenport vs. American Atheists, Inc.* may be the most important religious liberty case in decades."

### **Virginia Law to Regulate Abortion Clinics**

In a move that may close 17 of 20 abortion clinics in Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell has signed into law a bill which will impose hospital standards on all clinics which perform surgery. Clinics not in compliance will be required to cease operating. Virginia Society for Human Life president Olivia Gans commended the Governor's actions as preventing abortions and protecting mothers' health. For complete details of this bold bill visit: <http://www.lifenews.com/2011/03/28/virginia-gov-mcdonnell-signs-bill-cracks-down-on-abortion-centers/>

Approved: Joanne Tomassi

***Jesus, Mary, and Joseph we love you very much. We beg you to spare the lives of the unborn children whom we have spiritually adopted who are in danger of abortion.***

***– Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979)***