

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
**THE PLANNED PARENTHOOD
DEBATE: IT'S NOT REALLY
ABOUT "ILL-GOTTEN"
GAIN – THAT'S JUST
FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT!**



By Stephen L. Bakke  August 23, 2015

Here's what provoked me:

A writer representing Planned Parenthood once again was given space in the paper to make their defense, which is fine as long as others are heard as well. In this case the PP official accuses those trying to defund PP of only being interested in the fact that PP might be making a profit on the sale of fetal tissue. That may or may not be the case, but that's really not the point for most of the "de-funders"!

Here's my response:

**The Planned Parenthood Debate:
It's Not Really about "Ill-Gotten" Gain – That's Just for Dramatic Effect!**

On 8/21 Jen Aulwes of Planned Parenthood continued a thread of Editorial/Counterpoints ("No way is PP in it for the money"). These articles demonstrate how far away PP and its supporters are from understanding why many are trying to defund the organization. For Aulwes, it's all about objections to PP making money from abortions: "...there are no federal funds used for abortion – which is why it's ironic that Congress wants to deny Title X family-planning funding" to PP.

Many "de-funders" don't care much about the "profit" part – it's just that the organization has left themselves open for speculative criticism on that point. And it adds dramatic effect for sure! Given the demonstrably large portion of PP expenses that are abortion related, and given the large amount (over \$500 million out of approximate total revenues of \$1.2 billion) taxpayers provide, it's hard to conclude that no public funds are used for abortions. Unless abortion activities were set up in a separate organization with funds segregated, it's naïve to think that general operating funds of PP aren't intermingled.

Anyway, "money" just isn't the point! It's also not really about being opposed to ever using fetal tissue for research. For most of us, those aren't the issues. Abortion practitioners and researchers use terms like "products of conception," "specimens," and "remains." Most of us are most concerned about how that fetus transitioned to become mere "remains." We are concerned about the process, the definition of life, and how fetal research relates to that definition.