

 **TODAY'S "SHORT TOPIC"**
THE StarTribune
MAKES A CASE
SUPPORTING PLANNED
PARENTHOOD!

By Stephen L. Bakke  August 10, 2015



Here's what provoked me:

An editorial stated the paper's opinion on Planned Parenthood "fetal research" videos. The editorial staff believes that terminating federal PP funding "would be an unconscionable step backward..." It also presented its arguments which I believe are suspect. Any reader following the paper's advice would be working with severely limited and misleading information. So let's work to correct them!

Here's my response:

The StarTribune Makes a Case Supporting Planned Parenthood!

An editorial, "Shock videos set back abortion debate" on 8-9, states the paper's opinion on Planned Parenthood (PP) "fetal research" videos. The editorial believes terminating federal PP funding "would be an unconscionable step backward..." Arguments include:

- PP provides women's healthcare in areas of limited access to things like birth control.
- Mammograms are a valuable PP service.
- "Abortion comprises a small fraction of the services PP provides" (3%).

Please consider:

- Neither income nor geography is a MAJOR obstacle to cheap birth control – remember ObamaCare.
- A Live Action survey of PP units in 27 states found NO mammogram equipment. One response stated "We're mostly a surgical facility."
- The Alliance Defense Fund requested HHS to provide the number of PP facilities which were certified to perform mammograms. HHS reported none.
- It's now understood that PP provides only referrals for mammograms.
- The "3% claim" measures abortions as a percent of total procedures, including referrals, prescriptions, etc. It's NOT a measure of proportionate operating costs.
- A pregnancy test, mammogram referral, adoption referral, and ultimately an abortion, would be four services – with abortion being only 25% of the total, while consuming most of the costs.

I ask you to try estimating the cost is of providing an abortion (include physicians, nurses, medication and equipment). Multiply that by PP 328,000 abortions annually. What's your total? Compare that to the annual expenditures for PP – about \$1.2 billion per year.

Is abortion the core business of PP? You decide!