



From the Office of
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Congressional Pro-Life Caucus Press Conference on the 40th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade

Congressman Diane Black's Remarks

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Since I entered the working world as a nurse over forty years ago, women have broken through unthinkable barriers. While we have made significant progress towards gender equality, a new form of injustice has taken root in our society – injustice masked by the façade of empowerment and freedom.

Forty years after *Roe v. Wade*, the reality is, one third of my daughters and granddaughters' peers are not here to benefit from the progress we have made and share in our hopes and dreams for the future. As Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Over the last 40 years, more than 55 million babies have been aborted. What does that communicate about our society? Do we value women, families, children, life? Or do we prefer convenience, short-term solutions, and moral relativity?

Last year alone, more than one million babies were aborted in the U.S. One fourth of the more than one million abortions last year, were administered by Planned Parenthood, America's largest abortion provider – and taxpayers unwittingly helped foot the bill. Planned Parenthood receives more than half a billion taxpayer dollars annually intended for women's health, but it badly misuses these dollars to subsidize its big abortion business.

According to its most recent annual report, Planned Parenthood provided over 300,000 abortions last year, in other words, one abortion every 94 seconds. In total, abortion services accounted for more than 92 percent of its pregnancy services. Additionally, news reports in recent years have detailed the organization's numerous legal problems, including several incidents in which its employees showed an appalling willingness to cover up sex trafficking crimes.

That is why at the start of the new year, with the blessing of my good friend former Congressman Mike Pence, I reintroduced his legislation, H.R. 217, the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act. If signed into law, my bill would ensure that Title X federal grants are used for their intended purpose and these taxpayer dollars would be barred from going to organizations that provide abortions, such as Planned Parenthood.

As a nurse for more than 40 years, let me be clear, this bill would in no way limit access to women's health care. In fact, it would help women's health care by ensuring that Title X

federal grants go to organizations that are committed to using 100 percent of these taxpayer dollars for true women's health care. Abortion is not health care.

Every taxpayer dollar that Planned Parenthood misuses to subsidize abortions, is a dollar that is not going to women in need of health care. Planned Parenthood's big abortion business is an attack on life, women's health, and federal law. This is a fight we can and must win.

On this 40th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, we remember the 55 million babies who have been aborted and the countless number of women and men who have been hurt by abortion. To stop this injustice from taking more lives, we must strengthen our resolve to communicate the real impact of abortion, expand adoption opportunities and prenatal care as well as help to strengthen families and advance pro-life legislation. We press on with the hope that one day we will live in a country where each and every life – both born and unborn – is respected, valued and given the opportunity to pursue his or her dreams.

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