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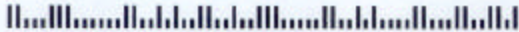
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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

NOV 20, 2001



Mr. Lee S. McColloster
311 Hickory Avenue
River Ridge, LA 70123-4035

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Dear Mr. McColloster:

Recently the House of Representatives passed its annual bill to fund the Departments of Labor, Health, and Education. For reasons important to the pro-life community, I voted against this bill.

First, a common-sense amendment had to be withdrawn which would have prevented federal assistance for schools offering the "morning after pill" to minors. This amendment, which I strongly supported, was withdrawn despite the promise of a vote. The Congressional Research Service determined that, incredibly, over 180 schools nationwide actually distribute this controversial pill - schools that can't give out aspirin without parental permission!

Also, this bill significantly increased the controversial Title X (ten) program which funds federal family planning programs. I have grave concerns about Title X because it supports and subsidizes abortion providers. Surprisingly, abortion clinics associated with nation-wide abortion activist organizations receive vast amounts of Title X money -- nearly \$60 million annually. In the wake of September 11th, a well-known pro-abortion organization issued a press release comparing their struggles with pro-life protesters and activists to the plight of the victims of terror. In Virginia, this same organization distributed red, white, and blue condoms! But the most shameless reaction was in New York, where they used the horrible tragedy to promote their agenda by offering free abortions in New York City. The people of New York and elsewhere deserve our compassion, not federally subsidized abortion handouts. An amendment I supported to eliminate the Title X increase unfortunately failed.

Finally, I offered an amendment to change the Title X program. Under my reasonable amendment, federal dollars would not flow to private abortion clinics. This would have no affect on public health institutions, and no one would be denied access to legitimate family planning services. The amendment merely ensures federal dollars do not subsidize private abortion clinics in any way. Similar measures have been upheld in federal courts. Regretfully, there were not enough votes in the Appropriations Committee to pass this amendment this year. I will continue the fight, including offering this amendment again next year.

If abortion providers nationwide have money for "patriotic" publicity stunt condoms and free abortions in response to September 11, then they certainly don't need increased taxpayer funding. And when pro-life Members of Congress have their legitimate concerns ignored, I have a hard time voting to support overall spending packages.

Thank you again for your commitment to life issues. I look forward to keeping in touch.

Sincerely,

David Vitter
Member of Congress