

The Christian Coalition and Rep. Dave Schultheis should publicly retract false allegations against Planned Parenthood

Letters

Dear Editor,

The recent full-page ad that ran in this newspaper by the Christian Coalition of Colorado, titled "Stop Planned Parenthood's Illegal Taxpayer Supported Abortion Rocket" was deliberately deceitful and incited war-outright falsehoods.

The voters said, "No public funds shall be used by the State of Colorado, its agencies or political subdivisions to pay or otherwise reimburse either directly or indirectly, any person, agency or facility for the performance of any induced abortion."

Frustrating to the Christian Coalition and Rep. Dave Schultheis, R-Colorado Springs, is that voters never intended a gag rule; that's forbidding Planned Parenthood to inform women of all their options to an unintended pregnancy, including abortion, or the referral, when asked, to one of their abortion clinics. Also frustrating to them, the absolute lack of evidence that any violation of the voters' intent by Planned Parenthood has ever occurred.

Two years ago Governor Bill Owens, in a political payback to the Christian Coalition, tried to strip Planned Parenthood of family planning monies meant for 15,000 poor rural Colorado Women for cancer screening, STD and AIDS testing, mammograms, and birth control. State auditor Dave Barba, a man respected by Governor Owens and Colorado Capital Hill Republicans, reported that audits of Planned Parenthood showed they've never used those monies to pay for an abortion either directly or indirectly by funneling money from their contraceptive clinics into their abortion clinics. Not then, not now has Governor Owens, Representative Schultheis, the Christian Coalition or anyone else step forward to challenge Barba's audit of Planned Parenthood. No one seems prepared to publicly level charges that Mr. Barba's audits of Planned Parenthood displayed incompetence or challenge his honesty in conducting those audits, let alone provide proof. Challenging Planned Parenthood before challenging

Barba's audit findings is putting the horse before the cart and illuminates motives driven by a pathological hatred of Planned Parenthood, not concern that the voters' intent isn't being honored.

The ad said Colorado State provides illegal subsidies to Planned Parenthood.

That's blatantly false.

~~The ad said the evidence~~ collected by the Christian Coalition "demonstrates a direct link between the taxpayer supported Planned Parenthood and the performance, advocacy, and referral for abortion."

First, it's blatantly false that the evidence demonstrated that Planned Parenthood used state subsidies for family planning services to pay for the performance of any abortion, directly or indirectly. Schultheis sent me a copy of the "evidence." Christian Coalition operatives called Planned Parenthood contraceptive clinics and asked, "I was told that you guys don't offer abortions anymore and I just wanted to see if that was right?" Clinic staff told the caller that wasn't true, that they didn't do abortions at that clinic and provided the caller with the phone number of the nearest abortion clinic to them.

Second, the "evidence" doesn't show any avocation by the clinic of abortion.

Finally, there's no violation of voter intent when contraceptive clinic staff refers an inquiring person to their abortion clinic.

In his cover letter to me, Schultheis said, "My amendment (to this year's Budget bill) would have clarified that it's illegal for any organization receiving state funds to make abortion referrals." Ah, their true intent is revealed. The Christian Coalition and legislators like Schultheis falsely claim there's been a violation of law but can't prove it, and then substitute Colorado voter intent with their own. A word of warning to them: voters deplore political tactics meant to circumvent their will and change their intent without their permission.

Life and Liberty for Women demands the Christian Coalition and Representative Dave Schultheis publicly retract the false and unproven allegations they made against Planned Parenthood,

publicly apologize to them and publicly apologize to the voters of Colorado for going behind their back and attempting to alter their original intent in Section 50 of Article 5 of the state constitution.

Colorado State
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