

OWENS' DECISION WILL INCREASE ABORTIONS

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Rep. Dave Schultheis's, R-Colorado Springs, in the Dec. 7 *Colorado Statesman*, tries to discredit my reasoning of the facts



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regarding Governor Bill Owens' decision to de-fund Planned Parenthood, by labeling me as hysterical and my

well reasoned intellectually sound comments (Nov. 23 issue) as hysteria. Such rhetoric casts doubt upon Schultheis's own reasoning of the facts, painting a picture of desperation. Only desperate men resort to calling intelligent reasonable women hysterical.

Schultheis said, "According to standard accounting practice, rent below the market rate constitutes a subsidy. Since PP's abortion-providing arm is receiving this subsidy from an organization that receives state funds, this constitutes an indirect subsidy of abortion."

What a crock! The voters' mandate - no funneling of state money - which all-previous state audits have concluded and this independent audit concluded - has never and isn't now occurring - is being hijacked by a "standard accounting practice." What Schultheis is really describing here is Gov. Owens' "light bulb theory." In 1999, using his

"light bulb theory" to re-define voter intent, Owens was prepared to de-fund PP, even though they were in complete

compliance. In the eleventh hour he agreed not to if PP split into two separate corporations.

Jane Norton, State Health Dept. Director explained Owens' theory to me. In this case, if state family planning funds - spent only for family planning - and this recent



then the performance of an abortion has indirectly been paid for. That insults our intelligence. It's

extremism at its most dangerous because it deliberately subverts the will of the people as a means to a political end.

The accounting firm of Anderson and Whitney in Greeley was paid over \$7,000 of taxpayer money because, according to Cynthia Honssinger, director of legal affairs for state health, they just couldn't wait for the state auditor to do it. Alan Holmberg, of Anderson and Whitney, said "paying less than fair market value doesn't demonstrate the independence of the affiliate and could be viewed as providing an indirect benefit to Services Corp." It's curious that Mr. Holmberg would use the word "indirect."

Demonstration of the independence of the affiliates that voters demanded has to do with whether the benefit the Services Corp. gets, flows from the funneling of taxpayer money. It doesn't. Holmberg's statement and his firm's audit prove that. Holmberg's use of the word indirect is designed to insinuate that its meaning in his statement is synonymous with the meaning the voters intended and that's false. But why? Perhaps, because without some allegedly incriminating statement from this so-called "independent" accounting firm, a statement Owens couldn't be sure he'd get from the state auditor's office, Owens knew he didn't dare accuse PP of non-compliance and he desperately needed political cover in the 2002 elections for de-funding PP.

Schultheis admitted his amendment to last year's long bill would have added the words, "No funds shall be used to provide referrals for abortions." What he doesn't tell you are those words create a gag rule, not sanctioned by voters. Going behind their back and changing their intent is something the legislature shouldn't do even if it can. Life and Liberty for Women suggests Schultheis proceed morally and ethically by putting his gag rule to a vote of the people.

Planned Parenthood doesn't exploit low-income, rural Colorado women. They provide them birth control to prevent abortion and needed life saving cancer screening pap smears and mammograms. We're confident that it's acceptable to the women, whose lives Owens is playing politics with, if LLW speak on their behalf for their access to readily available and affordable family planning services.

Clearly, I didn't selectively quote anything, mischaracterize Schultheis's amendment, or slander Gov. Owens. My moral credibility is fully intact. However, Schultheis's isn't. Comparing PP to the Chinese government is beneath the dignity of a Colorado legislator.

Governor Bill Owens has made a decision that will increase, in his state, the number of abortions and deaths from cervical and breast cancer. Owens is up for re-election, facing a huge political debt to his extreme anti-abortion right wing base, a slowing economy, shrinking revenues. He's a politician, who's betting that by next November voters will have forgotten how he hijacked, not upheld their mandate, with his "light bulb theory" and forgotten his abandonment of thousands of low-income Colorado women.

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audit agrees it clearly is - frees up private funds donated to PP that gives the Services Corp. a benefit - that benefit being a lease payment under market value consistent with established practices that follow the law - (that's all the auditor's cost reimbursement statement said) - and I might add, a benefit that all other non-profits PP leases too receives -

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