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## Gov. Owens' altering of the people's will means more abortions, deaths

To the editor:

Colorado voters intended there be no funneling of state family planning money from Planned Parenthood's family planning clinics into their abortion clinics, which all previous state audits have concluded, and a recent independent audit concluded, has never and isn't now occurring.

In December, interpreting a conclusion made by the accounting firm of Anderson and Whitney of Greeley using his 1999 "light bulb theory," which redefines Colorado voter intent, Gov. Bill Owens stripped Planned Parenthood of family planning funds. Anderson and Whitney was paid over \$7,000 in taxpayer money because, according to Cynthia Honssinger, state health legal affairs, they just couldn't wait for the state auditor to do it.

Owens' "light bulb theory" goes like this: If state family planning funds — spent only for family planning, and this recent audit agrees it clearly is — frees up private funds donated to Planned Parenthood, that gives the Services Corp. (the abortion corporation) a benefit — that benefit being a lease payment under market value consistent with established practices that follow the law — (that consistency confirmed by this recent audit) — (a benefit all other non-profits Planned Parenthood leases too receives) — then the performance of an abortion has indirectly been paid for. That insults our intelligence.

Alan Holmberg, Anderson and Whitney said "Paying less than fair market value doesn't demonstrate the independence of the affiliates and could be viewed as providing an indirect benefit to Services Corp." It's curious Holmberg would use the word "indirect." Demonstration of the independence of the affiliates that voters demanded is about whether the benefit the Services Corp. gets, flows from the funneling of taxpayer money. Holmberg's statement and his firm's audit prove it doesn't. Holmberg's use of the word indirect is meant to insinuate that its meaning in his statement is synonymous with the meaning Colorado 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 Planned Parenthood of noncompliance, and he desperately needed political cover in the 2002 elections for defunding the agency.

Gov. Owens' decision 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, betting that by next November, voters will have forgotten 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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