

to Planned Parenthood

To the editor:

A Jan. 11 letter was titled "Governor wisely pulls tax money from abortion shell game." That's an untrue statement about Planned Parenthood and considering the lack of evidence provided by the writer, that title deliberately misleads the public and muddles the debate to the detriment of thousands of low-income women in rural Colorado whose only source for family planning services is Planned Parenthood. The recent taxpayer-paid independent audit found no evidence that "artful bookkeeping" or a "shell game" was taking place. I challenge anti-abortionists, before they speak, to get a copy of the findings and read them.

Life and Liberty for Women explicitly said private funds donated to Planned Parenthood, not taxpayer funds, is what allows the abortion corporation to rent at below market value, a benefit consistent with established standard practices that follow the law. The state reimbursement for family planning and cancer screenings is \$78 per patient. Planned Parenthood must carry the remaining \$122. There's no money left over to funnel into the abortion corporation, which is why this recent audit found Planned Parenthood in compliance with the law.

The money in question has never affected the abortion clinics, only prevention of pregnancy and cancer, which when detected too late or not at all will kill.

Finally, an abortion rights supporter on Dec. 24 said, "what we make of our lives isn't dependent upon what we're born into," disagreeing with our claim that women who aren't oblivious to the quality of life issues when considering abortion are morally superior to anti-abortionists who want every conceived child born, quality of life issues being inconsequential. But quality of life issues aren't inconsequential, nor "baseless excuses for abortion." Otherwise, we wouldn't care about the quality of parenting, day care, education and effects upon individuals and society of child abuse, poverty, family violence and drug use. Some children, and mothers, may overcome negative quality of life issues while others wouldn't. That uncertainty and the fact that an unviable fetus, rightfully and morally, has no right to life over a born woman, which isn't at all tragic, makes a woman, rightfully and morally, the sole determiner as to what's in her own best interest and in the best interest of the potential life she's responsible for, as she sees it in that moment. That's being completely honest about motives.

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