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Congressman Michael Doyle Congressman Tim Holden Congressman Paul E. Kanjorski Congressman John Murtha Via FAX:

July 28, 2009

Honorable :

Thank you for your recent signature on the June 25, 2009 letter to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi opposing an abortion mandate in any health care reform bill. It was encouraging to see your signature on that letter and our hope would be that other members of your Party would recognize the importance of protecting the most innocent of Americans.

Unfortunately, one month later your signature did not translate into a vote in support of Congressman Mike Pence's amendment stripping Title X funding for Planned Parenthood from the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. The first sentence in paragraph four of the June 25th letter states, "Furthermore, funding restrictions save lives by reducing the number of abortions." This sentence and your vote on July 24th are the exact opposites! One must now wonder whether you read the June 25th letter that bears your signature.

Support for Congressman Pence's amendment would have been a perfect opportunity for you to show you were really serious about reducing the number of abortions. Defunding Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of abortions in the United States and the largest recipient of federal dollars under Title X, is a no-brainer if one is truly interested in saving lives.

As recent polls have shown, the percentage of Americans who identify as pro-life is 51%. I can assure you that there is a very large number of Pennsylvanians who are pro-life and expect their elected representatives in both Washington, D.C. and Harrisburg to vote that way.

Congressman, I would hope that in the future your 'stand for life' goes beyond a mere signature on a letter to a real vote for life. In the meantime as Planned Parenthood continues being funded by our tax dollars, ten of thousands of babies will be killed in the womb. Those numbers being added to the almost 50 million killed since the Roe v. Wade decision of 1973.

We have to agree with Congressman Pence's statement, "The right to life is not a partisan issue, but a moral one." One must wonder if someone (Democrat or Republican) is not willing to support life through a mere vote, what is it that he is willing to support.

Sincerely,

Diane Gramley President