

April 28, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear President Obama:

You recently stated, "No matter what our views, we are united in our determination to prevent unintended pregnancies, reduce the need for abortion and support women and families in the choices they make. To accomplish these goals, we must work to find common ground."

In an effort to work together to find common ground, we respectfully request that you reconsider and withdraw your nomination of Governor Kathleen Sebelius as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services in light of her close collaboration with the abortion industry.

During her time in public office, Governor Sebelius has demonstrated her adherence to the abortion agenda by accepting financial donations from extremist abortion providers and groups. For example, in a 2002 fundraising letter, George Tiller claims to have given more than \$200,000 to ProKanDo, a political action committee that worked heavily to elect Governor Sebelius. Further, she has hosted a Governor's Mansion party for and accepted more than \$35,000 in donations from the infamous late-term abortionist George Tiller, including \$23,000 between 2000 and 2002 that she initially failed to disclose in her responses to the Senate Finance Committee. In addition, Planned Parenthood, the largest abortion provider in the United States who has reported killing over 300,000 unborn children in 2008, has repeatedly endorsed Gov. Sebelius and conducted fundraisers on her behalf.

Given this, it is little wonder that Governor Sebelius repeatedly wielded her veto pen to protect abortion providers like George Tiller and Planned Parenthood, by refusing such common sense legislation as requiring abortion clinics to meet minimal safety standards. During her time in public office she has worked against even such modest measures as parental notification, waiting periods, and informed consent. In a 2004 Zogby poll, 61% of Americans said abortion should not be permitted after the fetal heartbeat has begun and furthermore, a July 2005 CBS poll indicated that 80% of those polled favor "requiring that at least one parent be told before a girl under 18 years of age could have an abortion." Only 17% of responders opposed such a provision. It is clear that Governor Sebelius' position is extreme and goes against what a large majority of Americans know is right.

Given your intentions to significantly reform health care in the United States and to expand coverage of the uninsured, the Secretary of Health and Human Services needs to be committed to finding true common ground in the crafting of those policies. This should include protecting life and not forcing taxpayer dollars to be used for objectionable practices. Because of Governor Sebelius's demonstrated commitment to those who actively promote abortion, we do not believe that she will lead the Department of Health and Human Services in a way that unites Americans in their support of pregnant women and their families.

We are deeply disappointed by this nomination and believe a nominee to such an important position should, at the very least, not have commitments to the morally reprehensible practice of providing abortion in almost every circumstance. For these reasons, we respectfully request that you withdraw

your nomination of Kathleen Sebelius for Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services.
Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Doug Lamborn (CO-05)
Tiahrt, Todd (KS-4)
Akin, Todd (MO-2)
Franks, Trent (AZ-2)
Smith, Chris (NJ-4)
Fleming, John Dr. (LA-4)
King, Steve (IA-5)
Gingrey, Phil (GA-11)
Miller, Jeff (FL-1)
Scalise, Steve (LA-01)
Jeff Fortenberry (NE-01)
Latta, Robert E. (OH-5)
Bishop, Rob (UT-01)
Pitts, Joe (PA-16)
Bachmann, Michele (MN-6)
Burton, Dan (IN-5)
Garrett, Scott (NJ-5)
Jordan, Jim (OH-4)
Manzullo, Donald (IL-16)
Peterson, Collin (MN-5)
Brady, Kevin (TX-08)
Chaffetz, Jason (UT-3)
McClintock, Tom (CA-04)
Hoekstra, Pete (MI-02)
Westmoreland, Lynn (GA-03)
Neugebauer, Randy (TX-19)
Conaway, Mike (TX-11)
Shadegg, John (AZ-2)
Jordan, Jim (OH-4) [Duplicate]
Heller, Dean (NV-02)
Gohmert, Louie (TX-1)
McHenry, Patrick (NC-10)
Wittman, Robert (VA-01)