

## *Planned Parenthood to Takes Sides With Its Endorsement of McGreevey*

By DAVID M. HALBFINGER

TRENTON, Oct. 3 — The political arm of Planned Parenthood will endorse James E. McGreevey for governor of New Jersey on Thursday, an unsurprising move on its face but one that the group's national president linked to the Rev. Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson's blaming abortion providers and feminists for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Planned Parenthood has not taken sides in a New Jersey governor's race before, and the group had considered staying out of this year's because it differs with Mr. McGreevey, a Democrat who mainly supports abortion rights, on one issue it considers vital: parental notification for minors seeking abortions.

But Gloria Feldt, the president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, said in an interview that the decision to support Mr. McGreevey was made Sept. 14, a day after Mr. Falwell and Mr. Robertson asserted on television that an angry God had allowed the terrorist attacks to succeed because "the abortionists, and the feminists, and the gays and the lesbians" and others

had tried to "secularize America."

Ms. Feldt, who also heads the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, a political action group, said its members were further angered when Bret D. Schundler, the Republican candidate, who opposes abortion rights, at first declined to repudiate Mr. Falwell and Mr. Robertson, as President Bush had already done.

The value of Planned Parenthood's endorsement is an open question. Ms. Feldt said Planned Parenthood's polling showed its imprimatur would mean "a great deal, particularly among women swing voters."

Ms. Feldt also said that Mr. McGreevey's voting record in the Assembly and the Senate had been excellent and that the choice in the governor's race was between "very good and horrible."

Bill Pascoe, Mr. Schundler's campaign manager, said that Planned Parenthood opposed restricting late-term abortions, despite polls showing New Jerseyans would support such restrictions. "Remember, this is a group that favors partial birth abortion," he said, "and in Jim McGreevey they have found their man."