

Taxpayers Subsidize One-Third of Planned Parenthood's Budget

by Jon E. Dougherty

U.S. taxpayers have provided more than \$3 billion in funding to Planned Parenthood over the past four decades and now account for one-third of the abortion provider's annual budget, according to a pro-life advocacy group.

An analysis of Planned Parenthood's budget by officials with the pro-life organization American Life League (ALL) found that the abortion group derived 33 percent of its income from government funding sources in 2003, a figure that grew 5.6 percent from 2002.

"Planned Parenthood's just-released 2002-2003 Annual Report shows that 33 percent of its income came from government grants and contracts totaling \$254.4 million in the fiscal year ending in June 2003," said Jim Sedlak, executive director of ALL's STOPP International. "This government money helped Planned Parenthood haul in a \$36.6 million profit in its last fiscal year."

The General Accounting Office, Congress' watchdog agency, also found that Planned Parenthood received \$60.9 million from Medicaid and \$58.7 million from Title X of the Public Health Service Act in 2001. Sedlak says Medicaid funding to Planned Parenthood increased by 79 percent

between 1999 and 2001 due "in part" to waivers granted by President Clinton. He says President Bush "has continued granting such waivers."

The GAO report, requested by U.S. Reps. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., and Joseph Pitts, R-Pa., also examined the level of fiscal year 2001 spending by other groups that provide abortion-related health services — the Population Council, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, The Alan Guttmacher Institute, Advocates for Youth, and the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS).

Regarding Planned Parenthood's level of funding, Sedlak said local, state and federal elected officials were responsible, though most of the group's funding comes from federal sources.

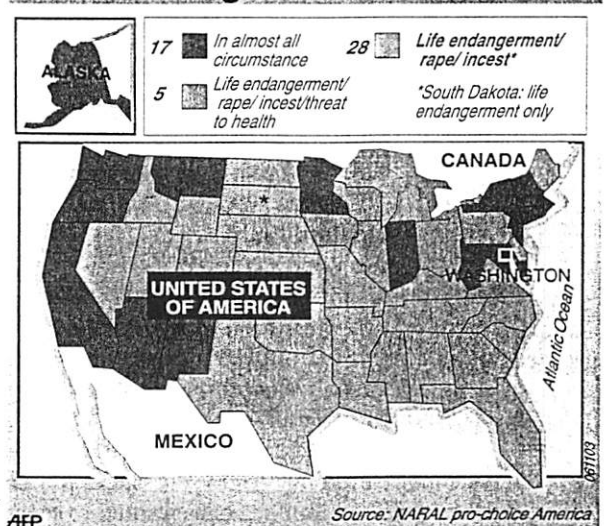
"This abuse of our tax dollars must stop," said Sedlak. "Let's not forget that while Planned Parenthood has been riding a tax-funded gravy train, it has

reported performing more than 3.2 million abortions since 1977, including a record 227,375 in the most recent year."

Planned Parenthood, which says it is a not-for-profit organization, did not immediately respond to phone calls seeking comment. On its Web site, the organization says one in four women will receive medical services from a Planned Parenthood source at some point in her lifetime.

The organization has consistently opposed any federal or state efforts to limit or ban abortion procedures, and it has sued to block implementation of a recent bill signed into law by President

Public funding of abortion in the USA



Bush banning a late-term procedure known as partial-birth abortion. Planned Parenthood calls the measure unconstitutional.

Planned Parenthood maintains that the late-term abortion procedure is not performed often. **NM**

Planned Parenthood Makes a Killing — Profits Triple

Newly released figures from Planned Parenthood show that the agency turned a \$36 million profit in 2003, a threefold increase over 2002, even though the downward trend in abortion rates continues nationwide.

A third of that income came from performing 227,385 abortions in 2003, up from 213,000 in 2002, according to STOPP's Jim Sedlak.

It remains to be seen how much the agency will rake in from its controversial fund-raising Christmas card, "Choice on Earth."

Though agents of Planned Parenthood like to talk about

choice, they don't like to offer it, as they referred fewer than 2,000 women to adoption agencies in 2003.

National Right to Life medical director Dr. Randall O'Bannon said Planned Parenthood's windfall is due to the agency's use of pro-life President George W. Bush as a fear factor to energize its donor base.

Outrageously, one of the statements that appears at the top of Planned Parenthood's Web site home page claims, "We believe in acting courageously, especially as allies with those who have little or no voice and little or no power." **NM**