

Politics

Planned Parenthood Could Profit From War Funding Bill

By Michael Gryboski

CNSNews.com Correspondent

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(EDITOR'S NOTE: The original version of this article erroneously listed Sen. Ben Nelson (D-Neb.) as being one of four Democratic senators to officially request an amendment on prescription drugs be added to the War Supplemental bill. The story also mistakenly described two amendments to the War Supplemental Bill (2008) as if they were the same amendment. Cybercast News Service regrets the errors.

(CNSNews.com) - The Senate Appropriations Committee has added an amendment to the 2008 War Supplemental Bill (H.R. 2642) that pro-life advocates say would benefit the nation's largest abortion provider, Planned Parenthood.

The measure would once again allow Planned Parenthood clinics and university health centers to receive drugs at discounted prices, according to Wendy Wright, president of the pro-life group Concerned Women for America.

"Planned Parenthood already has a massive markup on its drugs," Wright told Cybercast News Service. "They get them at a severely reduced price as it is, and then they turn around and sell them for a rather high price to their clients."

She pointed out that the provision would enable clinics to buy drugs, such as birth control pills and the morning after pill Plan B, at a discount.

In 2005, as part of the Deficit Reduction Act, Congress made university health clinics and clinics that dispense birth control and abortion drugs ineligible to receive discounts on drugs provided under the Public Health Service Act. If enacted, the amendment would overrule that law (Public Law 109-171), virtually guaranteeing Planned Parenthood clinics would get discounts on drugs.

Democratic Sens. Patty Murray (Wash.), Herb Kohl (Wis.) and Tom Harkin (Iowa) sought the amendment, which was added to the Iraq war funding bill.

Both Murray and Harkin have received 100 percent approval ratings from Planned Parenthood, and in 2007 Kohl was given a 100 percent favorability rating from NARAL Pro-Choice America, formerly the National Abortion Rights Action League.

Calls to Planned Parenthood and to the offices of all four Democratic senators were not returned. A spokesman

for Sen. Nelson, did respond to Cybercast News Service, but refused comment.

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