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“Race-based attack”

Pro-abortion groups unsuccessful so far in campaign to censor Oakland pro-life billboards

Efforts by pro-abortion activists to pressure a company into taking down 60 pro-life billboards in the Oakland area have failed, the *East Bay Express* reports.



On June 15, the Rev. Walter Hoye's California-based Issues4Life Foundation and the Georgia-based Radiance Foundation unveiled plans to erect the billboards, which feature the image of an African-American baby and carry the slogan, "Black & Beautiful."

The two foundations call their campaign "TooManyAborted.Com," and say the outdoor advertising is intended to draw attention to the disproportionate impact abortion has on African-Americans and to expose "Planned Parenthood's racist and eugenics-based history."

But, reports the *East Bay Express*, a coalition of pro-abortion groups including Asian Reproductive Rights, the California chapter of Trust Black Women, and Black Women For Wellness launched a "call-in campaign" with the Bay Area affiliate of CBS Outdoor, the company that owns the billboards. The pro-abortion groups claim the billboards are racist and offensive.

On June 17, U.S. Rep. Barbara Lee, D-Oakland, issued a statement in which she characterized the billboards as a "race-based attack on a woman's right to choose."

"I am deeply offended by the race-based billboards that are being displayed in my congressional district by the Radiance Foundation and Issues4Life," Lee said in the statement. "These billboards stigmatize women of color and perpetuate myths about parenting skills and the types of women who seek and use abortion services."

Neither Lee's statement nor the "call-in campaign" had their desired effect, reported the *East Bay Express*. The newspaper quoted an email to one of the pro-abortion groups from Jeff McCuen, CBS Outdoor's general manager. In it, McCuen said: "The Radiance ads are within the standards we apply to all submissions, and we would apply those same standards in deciding whether to accept an ad presenting an opposing viewpoint. At the end of the day we have faith in the public's ability to use their judgment with regard to the issues involved in this debate."

The pro-abortion groups, however, have not given up their fight to censor the billboards. According to the *East Bay Express*, they have set up a webpage from which messages can be sent to CBS Outdoor calling on them to take down the pro-life advertising.

In the June 15 announcement about the billboard campaign, the two pro-life foundations suggest the racism comes from the pro-abortion side. "The CDC reports that the Black abortion rate is over 3 times that of the majority population -- differences which cannot be explained by 'health care disparities,'" said the statement.

"The impact of abortion in the Black Community is the Darfur of America," Hoye said in the statement, noting that 15 million Black Americans have lost their lives to abortion since 1973.

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