

Point missed

Faith Kopplin's Saturday guest column ["Family planning saves costs"] missed the main point of the family planning debate in Austin.

She equated defunding Planned Parenthood of Central Texas with defunding family planning. Actually, the major reform initiatives sought by social conservatives seek to redirect state family planning funds.

Here are good reasons for shifting funding away from Planned Parenthood:

- Funding can be shifted to FQHCs, or Federally Qualified Health Centers. These are full-featured clinics like the Family Health Center in Waco. With this change, health care provisions for women will shift from nurses to physicians who provide comprehensive primary and preventive health care.

- By defunding Planned Parenthood, we avoid the obvious conflict of interest for counseling pregnant women on their pregnancy choices. Planned Parenthood is the dominant abortion provider in Texas and the nation. It operates 14 abortion facilities in Texas, including one on Columbus Avenue. The Planned Parenthood abortion chain continues to expand and needs for new customers that can be provided through its family planning clinics.

- Planned Parenthood's outreach promotes unfettered sex. Its national organization recently launched an educational program and website with the goal of eliminating any sense of shame from all sexual behaviors.

Planned Parenthood has the right to promote this vision. However, an agenda of moral and social transformation should not be subsidized by tax dollars.

John Pisciotta, Waco

SATURDAY, MARCH 26, 2011

Pray against clinic abortions

I want to explain why some of us pray every Thursday morning at Planned Parenthood of Central Texas. Thursdays are the day that the abortions are performed there. Some people think we are not all about love. Those who are against us say we are hateful. This can't be any more wrong.

Initially I was hesitant to join because I had heard the lies and really didn't know to believe. One day I went and was amazed at the dedication and love all the people had there for the babies and mothers. I wouldn't keep coming if I saw any hate. And anyone exhibiting hate is not welcome. As the mothers pass us, this is the last time they will get to see anybody who really cares about them and their unborn babies. Our main objective is to show each mother that she is loved by us and God and that there are alternatives. After she enters the clinic, things will never be the same again — not for the baby or her.

I've heard people say praying is no use because the mother has already made up her mind. But I don't believe this for one minute. I think God is working on her, trying to save that baby and prevent what she will go through if she aborts that baby.

Jerry Willett, Lorena