

MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

Girl Scouts-Planned Parenthood link probed

Group to identify each council that partners with abortion provider

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A pro-life organization announced yesterday it will compile a "definitive list" of Girl Scout councils nationwide that shows whether or not each group is partnering with abortion provider Planned Parenthood.

As WorldNetDaily reported, a link between a local council and Planned Parenthood gained national attention when a Waco, Texas, pro-life group staged a boycott of Girl Scout cookies because the council was cosponsoring two sex-education programs with the abortion provider.

The Bluebonnet Council of Girl Scouts made the decision to pull out of the events after the youth group began receiving complaints from around the nation.

STOPP International's project to document each council's positions on Planned Parenthood was sparked after hearing Kathy Cloninger, CEO for Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., tell NBC News: "We have relationships ... with Planned Parenthood organizations across the country, to bring information-based sex education programs to girls."

Jim Sedlak, executive director of STOPP International, says parents should clearly know where their local councils stand in relation to Planned Parenthood.

"Historically, parents have viewed the Girl Scouts as a safe, wholesome educational organization for their daughters to join," Sedlak said in a statement. "In light of Cloninger's recent comments, STOPP International is creating a tool by which parents can determine if their local Girl Scouts still deserve that trust."

Sedlak doubted the Girl Scouts' contention that all programs "are age-appropriate" and that scouting will "help girls develop meaningful values and ethics."

"Planned Parenthood's programs expose young girls to pornographic images and sexually explicit information that leads them down the road to the contraceptive and abortion mentality," Sedlak said. "This information does not help develop meaningful values, but instead it is often damaging to women. The Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. needs to cut all ties with this pro-death organization."

STOPP International says the information about each council will be released publicly during the week of April 5.