



# Christian Civic League of Maine

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*Associated with Focus on the Family*

**Statement by  
Carroll L. Conley, Jr., Executive Director  
Christian Civic League of Maine**

**To Members of the Joint Committee on Health and Human Services**

**Regarding L.D. #1247, "An Act to Expand Coverage of Family Planning Services"**

Chairpersons Craven and Farnsworth and honored Committee members, thank you for the opportunity to express my opposition to L.D. 1247. My name is Carroll Conley of the Christian Civic League of Maine.

It should come as no surprise to anyone that the Christian Civic League would be opposed to expanding funding to Planned Parenthood.

When it comes to Medicare, President Obama has admitted there is, and I quote "widespread waste, fraud, and abuse" that needs to be addressed.

No matter what your stance may be regarding abortion, waste, fraud and abuse should not be tolerated. In the past eight years, audits and investigations of Planned Parenthood in California, New Jersey, New York and Washington have uncovered unscrupulous (and in some cases illegal) billing practices. Health and Human Services estimates improper overpayments in the Medicaid program of \$22.5 billion nationally in the 2010 fiscal year. In one year alone, California was improperly billed over \$5 billion.

Here is a quote from New Jersey Health and Human Services investigation for 2008:

"During our visits to family planning clinics throughout the State, many providers (especially Planned Parenthood providers) stated that they billed all claims to Medicaid as "family planning." Officials at these clinics stated that they believed that all of the services they provided were related to family planning. Therefore, officials at these clinics often populated the family planning indicator field on Medicaid claims even though the service provided did not meet the criteria for 90-percent Federal funding. By populating this field, the [Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS)] designated the claim as eligible for 90-percent Federal funding.

These are not isolated occurrences; the same improprieties were found in all four state investigations. When one considers that 97% of Planned Parenthood business is abortion related, it is easy to see beyond the façade of “family planning.”

I realize these are serious and startling accusations, but they are well-documented. Does a multi-billion dollar industry with a documented pattern of fraud require or deserve corporate welfare?

The services of STI and pregnancy prevention mentioned in this bill are freely accessible in this state. Under these economic difficulties, it is critical for our legislature to diligently and aggressively weed out fraud and waste while at the same time offering necessary services to Maine women.

I urge you to vote against L.D. 1247.