

The Association of Politically Active Christians

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2010 MEMORANDUM OF SUPPORT PREVENTING THE USE OF MEDICAID FUNDING FOR ELECTIVE ABORTIONS Contact: Stephen P. Hayford (518-364-5324)

The Association of Politically Active Christians (APAC) supports budget amendments and/or stand-alone legislation preventing the use of Medicaid funds for elective abortions.

According to recent data from the New York State Department of Health, approximately one-third of pregnancies in New York end in abortion. Also, half of African-American New Yorkers' pregnancies end in abortion. All New Yorkers, regardless of their overall stance on the abortion issue, should be able to agree that these numbers are appalling and unacceptable.

In the year 2007, 46,653 abortions were financed by taxpayer dollars through Medicaid in the State of New York. This total represents approximately 40% of abortions in New York State. While many politicians express support for the concept of making abortion rare, New York must take steps to make that ideal a reality. Preventing the use of Medicaid funds for abortion would save thousands of children's lives, shield many women from the painful physical and emotional consequences of abortion, and protect New Yorkers from having their tax dollars spent on a procedure that destroys innocent human life.

In addition, preventing tax dollars from being used for elective abortions would place New York in step with the 72% of Americans who do not want their tax dollars used by government to pay for abortion procedures.

Furthermore, the State's current policy sends a harmful and damaging message to low-income women in New York. To put it simply, making abortions free to persons on Medicaid encourages low-income women to choose abortion. The veiled message of this policy is that low-income women's children are considered by the State to be disposable.

For all of these reasons, APAC strongly urges all Members of the New York State Legislature to: (a) vote in favor of budget amendments and/or other legislation preventing the use of Medicaid funds for elective abortions; and (b) vote against any budget bills that would allow the use of Medicaid funds for elective abortions. APAC looks forward to the day when pro-life New York taxpayers will no longer be required to fund abortion against their will.