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Tenn. abortion clinic reneges on expansion

Charlie Butts - OneNewsNow - 8/23/2009 4:00:00 AM

ADD THIS

Knoxville's Planned Parenthood is backing off its expansion plan.



Planned Parenthood had chosen the location, filed remodeling specifications, and hired contractors to do the work. Fletcher Armstrong, southeast director for the [Center for Bio-Ethical Reform](#) (CBR), tells OneNewsNow a coalition was formed to fight it when they discovered part of the plans involved possible future surgical abortions. ([See earlier article](#))

"Tennessee Right to Life, CBR, local churches, the Diocese of Knoxville, people representing crisis pregnancy centers -- we came together and said let's find a way to stop this, and we did," he says.

Armstrong points out that where abortion groups are vulnerable is that they must have support from surrounding businesses, who generally do not want the notoriety of abortion clinics or to attract demonstrations.



"The coalition worked together to make sure to put public awareness on this," he explains. "We put up a billboard, we generated phone calls, we generated news coverage -- those kinds of things -- to highlight the fact that Planned Parenthood's going to expand, and here are the businesses that are making that possible."

Planned Parenthood has backed off on the location. But should they choose another site later, Armstrong says the coalition will take action again.

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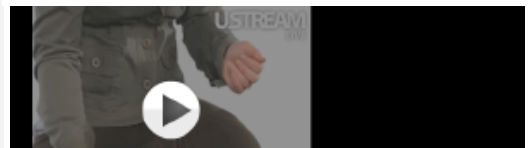
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