

Gregg L. Cunningham, Executive Director

January 2010

Dear Pro-Life Supporter,

I am late getting this January letter to you because CBR has been deeply involved in the fight to keep abortion out of health care “reform.” But before I explain all that, I need to say that as a consequence of your generosity, 2010 will be a “Happier New Year” for a mother in Finland. On December 30, 2009, one of our CBR associates in Helsinki told us of a mother in her late twenties who had just cancelled her planned abortion after seeing our aborted baby photos and video. He translated her message as follows:

I considered to abort the pregnancy. I thought abortion just terminates the pregnancy. I went to Google to search how long abortion is allowed in Finland and at the end I found your web-pages. Thank you for these web-pages. Thank you that you were along to save my child’s life. I am not able to kill my child. I had an idea, that in scraping it is more or less a cell lump that is taken away. Now I do not consider abortion at all.

She closed her message by saying: “Tears flow freely when I watch small hands and legs.” She added: “My child must not be hurt.” But here in America, babies without number will be “hurt” if Mr. Obama succeeds in passing a health care “reform” bill which uses public funds to finance abortions. It insults the intelligence of American taxpayers when supporters of socialized medicine propose abortion coverage through government subsidized health insurance and then argue that laundering government money through an insured’s personal checking account magically transforms public funds into private funds. We aren’t going to allow Mr. Obama to ram this anti-life monstrosity through the Congress without a fight and one of the most influential political newspapers in Washington described our battle plan: “Anti-abortion rights group to pressure Blue Dogs on health bill language,” *The Hill*, January 5, 2010:

An anti-abortion rights group Tuesday announced it will launch a billboard ad campaign pressuring Blue Dogs to halt further compromises on the healthcare overhaul’s abortion language. The Center for Bio-Ethical Reform (CBR) said it will operate trucks mounted with the billboards containing graphic images in Blue Dogs’ districts starting next week. A photo of the lawmaker appears on the signs alongside an image of a severed hand of an aborted fetus. The message “Abortion is not healthcare” underlines the photos.

“Blue Dog” Democrats are called “Blue Dogs” because they like to characterize themselves as political “centrists” or “moderates” (though on many issues they are as liberal as their neo-socialist colleagues) which supposedly makes them as rare in the Democrat world as a blue dog would be in the canine world. They usually hail from relatively conservative districts in which they only narrowly won their seats. As a consequence, they are perpetually vulnerable to defeat and in this particularly hostile political climate, the timing of our Blue Dog educational campaign couldn’t be better. Politico.com, January 19, 2010, reported a story headlined “Dems brace for more 2010 fallout”:

House Democrats watched the election results come in from Massachusetts with a sense of impending doom for their agenda — and panic for their vulnerable freshmen. ‘I feel sorry

for them,' Rep. Allen Boyd (D-Fla.) said of his most junior colleagues. 'It's like they walked in and got hit upside the head with a big jackhammer.' Moderate Democrats have grown increasingly anxious over the past few months ....

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But nothing set the alarm bells ringing quite like Scott Brown's come-from-behind victory over Martha Coakley in Massachusetts — and with it the loss of not just Ted Kennedy's Senate seat but also their party's 60-vote supermajority in the upper chamber.

CBR has now deployed fleets of pro-life billboard trucks into the congressional districts of these carefully selected Members of Congress whose votes will be needed to strip abortion funding from ObamaCare and, more ideally, to kill this malevolent legislative monstrosity. And the procedural abuses which The Hopy-Changy One (to paraphrase one witty wag) has visited on America's legislative process are shocking. We are literally witnessing the destruction of our nation's system of governance. But with your help, CBR's strategically placed mobile billboards will show voters what publicly funded abortion looks like and urge them to urge their representatives to reject any compromise on abortion funding!

And the trucks are working. Rep. Kathy Dahlkemper is one of our targeted lawmakers and is in her first term in Congress, where she won her seat with only 51% of the vote. On January 7, 2010, the *Sharon Herald* newspaper reported that, "Abortion seemed to be more a sticking point for Mrs. Dahlkemper, who said she is working with anti-abortion representatives to keep taxpayer dollars from paying for abortions." This remark was confidence inspiring and I was further encouraged when on January 17, I received a message from a member of our staff saying: "This morning our lead driver in Erie, Jim Davis, went to a pro-life breakfast with his host family. Kathy Dahlkemper was there, and said in her talk that she would not compromise on the Stupak Amendment. Afterward, Jim went up and talked with her and asked her if she would 'waffle,' to which she emphatically said no. Jim explained who he was, and she thanked him for having the trucks here."

I had been concerned about Mrs. Dahlkemper's reliability because in this same newspaper article she was quoted as saying "she didn't see any single issue that's a 'deal breaker'" in attempts to reconcile House and Senate versions of the health care reform bills. That comment suggested a willingness to accept a "compromise" such as the phony abortion funding "restrictions" which Sen. Ben Nelson had inserted in the Senate version of the ObamaCare bill. But then today, Mrs. Dahlkemper's chief of staff emailed me to say: "You can trust Congresswoman Dahlkemper's word .... She is a proud co-sponsor of the Stupak amendment and does not believe the Nelson amendment in the Senate bill is strong enough. I can confidently say you can move your trucks to another location without concern." To help lock in her commitment, we will quickly release her email message to the press.

We have also been operating our rolling billboards in the Oklahoma congressional district of Rep. Dan Boren and shortly after we kicked off the project, he told the *Tulsa World* newspaper ("Democrats May Lose Congress," January 10, 2010) that he "vowed" to vote against ObamaCare when it came back to the House of Representatives. More to the point, on January 19, 2010, in a story about our trucks, he specifically told News 9, KWTW, the CBS affiliate in Oklahoma City, that he would "oppose any attempt to use public funds for abortion." This was his first public comment on abortion funding following the House vote on health care reform.

Then on January 15, Rep. Steve Driehaus, another focus of CBR's informational project, issued a statement broadcast by WKRC-TV ("Graphic Anti-Abortion Billboard to Appear in Cincinnati"), the CBS affiliate in Cincinnati, OH, in which the Congressman said he won't vote to support abortion funding, referred to his earlier support for Rep. Bart Stupak's tough funding restrictions and encouraged pro-lifers to join forces

with Catholic Bishops, who, of course, advocate the most stringent possible restrictions on abortion funding. He then reinforced that commitment on January 17, 2010, when he told Cincinnati.com (*Enquirer, Community Press*) that he “will oppose any version of health care reform legislation that doesn’t clearly prohibit federal funds from being used to pay for abortions.” The story referred to CBR’s billboard trucks and was headlined “Driehaus stands firm on abortion fight.”

The presence of our trucks in the Mississippi congressional district of Rep. Gene Taylor elicited another strong statement of opposition to abortion funding in the ObamaCare bill. The January 8, 2010 edition of the *Laurel Leader-Call* newspaper reported a story headlined “Anti-abortion truck parked in front of Taylor’s office.” It quoted a spokesman for the Congressman who said, “He’s still against the health care bill and always will be.” Another spokesman later sent CBR an email message assuring us that Rep. Taylor “... voted for the Stupak Amendment [banning abortion funding] and then voted against the House health care bill. There is absolutely nothing in his 20-year record that would suggest that it is remotely possible that he would vote for any funding for abortions, direct or indirect ....”

On the strength of these commitments, CBR is suspending billboard truck operations in the districts of these Members and will concentrate on other Members who may need to receive visits from our mobile abortion photo signs.

The only currently targeted Blue Dog Democrat House Member from whom we have received no response to date is Rep. Chris Carney (D-PA). We recently sent his chief of staff a message saying:

On November 24, 2009, Mr. Carney was quoted by *The Times-Tribune* newspaper as saying ‘... a number of things made the [health care reform bill] more attractive ... including the inclusion ... of an amendment prohibiting abortion coverage by participants in the plan.’ We have reason to believe that Mr. Carney will soon be asked to support the Senate version of the health care reform bill, which, as you are also aware, contains abortion funding language inserted by Sen. Ben Nelson. Because even Sen. Barbara Boxer, who helped write that language, has admitted to McClatchey Newspapers (December 23, 2009) that the Nelson ‘compromise’ is ‘only an “accounting procedure” that will do nothing to restrict abortion coverage,’ we would like some assurance from Mr. Carney that he will oppose any legislation which departs from the provisions of the Stupak abortion funding amendment he supported earlier.

We then offered to move our trucks out of his legislative district as soon as we receive assurance that he will oppose even indirect public funding of abortion. Until we receive a satisfactory reply, his constituents will be shown the horror of abortion every day of the week during their daily commutes to work and shop.

The ObamaCare bill passed the House by such a narrow margin that the defection of only three Members could scuttle the entire effort when attempts are made to pass a version to which both the House and Senate can agree. Pro-life Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI) has made an heroic stand against attempts to force abortion funding into the bill and he has been quoted as saying that he has commitments from approximately ten pro-life Blue Dog House Democrats to vote “no” on any version of ObamaCare which contains even indirect abortion funding of the sort Sen. Ben Nelson sneaked into the Senate version of the bill. We don’t have the names of those Blue Dog Democrats but some careful research has given us a pretty good idea who they are and we intend to send our trucks into many of their districts.

Because of the enormous success we are having persuading these lawmakers to publicly commit to standing with Rep. Stupak in opposition to abortion funding, CBR today announced that our truck project would also visit the congressional districts of Rep. Tim Ryan (D-OH) and Rep. Tom Perriello (D-VA). We will suspend operations in these districts only when Rep. Ryan and Rep. Perriello publicly pledge to oppose any

abortion funding measure which departs from the terms of the Stupak Amendment for which they voted prior to final passage of the House health care reform bill.

Rep. Ryan voted for the Stupak Amendment and for ObamaCare on final passage but he also authored the treacherous Capps Amendment which he billed last summer as a “common ground” compromise on abortion funding. It was just another pro-abortion accounting trick, intended to permit but hide public funding for abortion. It was essentially written by Planned Parenthood. If Mr. Ryan was willing to propose a measure as duplicitous as the Capps sell-out, he would be even more likely to vote for the weak Nelson funding restrictions in the Senate version of ObamaCare. That is why we need to be in his district, helping stiffen his spine with our trucks on his streets.

The surprise election victory in Massachusetts of Republican Sen.-Elect Scott Brown deprives Senate Democrats of the 60 vote super-majority on which they had been relying to ram ObamaCare into law with abortion funding. The President and Democrat-controlled Congress may now be forced to opt for a slower process which will produce perhaps a series of smaller bills that achieve only a fraction of the ruinous goals the ominous omnibus ObamaCare bill sought to accomplish. That buys us more time during which to use our trucks to concentrate the minds of wavering “pro-life” Blue Dogs.

We are limited by the IRS formulae which govern the amounts of money which not-for-profit, 501(c)3 organizations such as CBR may properly spend on “direct” as well as “grass roots” lobbying (please Google the *Congressional Research Service, Report to Congress: “Lobbying Regulations on Non-Profit Organizations,”* May 2008). On our projected 2010 budget, that limit is about \$55,000. We are working hard to raise and spend every penny of that figure to stop the most pro-abortion government power-grab since the Supreme Court decided *Roe v. Wade*. CBR is uniquely positioned to send a message to a handful of lawmakers who have the ability to stop this bill: If you betray the preborn, we will make sure that your constituents see the horror of abortion with their own eyes. And although we are bound by law to stay out of electoral politics, we promise, without pointing fingers or naming names (which tasks we will leave to others) we will make abortion a bigger issue in your reelection campaign than you can possibly imagine.

Please help us with a donation of any size. Even a small contribution could help us hold the three critical House votes we are fighting to save.

Lord bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregg Cunningham', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gregg Cunningham  
Executive Director

P.S. On December 18, 2009, a twenty-four-year-old man from “central Ohio” wrote to say of our abortion photos and video: “This is the most disturbing thing I’ve ever seen in my life. No person should be able to do this. Unbelievable that a doctor can sleep at night after performing this procedure. Wow.” People often think they understand abortion until they finally see abortion photos and realize they really had no idea. Thank you for helping us show this young man and many others of his generation the terrible truth.