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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF KNOXVILLE

February 4, 2010

Representative Joe Armstrong  
4708 Hilldale Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37914

Dear Representative Armstrong,

Recently, Planned Parenthood, under the deceptive guise of “Leonard Lawson LLC” purchased a medical building in the residential area of East Knoxville. As this clinic falls within your district, I pray you can understand the reasons for the community’s strong reaction towards Planned Parenthood and their particular revulsion towards the vile eugenics and racist vision of Margaret Sanger, which the organization she founded perpetuates. I further pray that you will join us in opposing this move.

To know Margaret Sanger is to know Planned Parenthood’s vision for society. It is no accident that nearly eighty percent – 4 of every 5 – of Planned Parenthood’s clinics are in minority communities. Their move into the residential area of East Knoxville then comes as no surprise.

It is a well documented fact that Margaret Sanger willingly took her message to groups as extreme in their hatred as the KKK and promoted her eugenicist programs to contain the “undesirable and less fit members of society” through sterilization, birth control and abortion. This was the motivation behind her so-called “Negro Project.” No one who has watched the documentary, *Maafa 21*, can remain feeling indifferent about Planned Parenthood and its agenda.

As Bishop of the Catholic Diocese in East Tennessee, I joined other community and religious leaders in opposing Planned Parenthood’s attempt last year to move and expand the range of their abortion services in our city. Clearly, based upon the blueprints of their failed venture then and the present configuration of the Cherry St. medical building with its six “treatment rooms,” Planned Parenthood is poised at a time of their choosing to begin providing surgical abortion services in addition to the chemical abortions currently provided.

As a leader and prominent voice within our State government and the East Knoxville community, I ask you to reject Planned Parenthood’s vision for society and to commit, as I and many others did this past Tuesday, “to defend and promote a city of life.”

I believe that for a correct vision for society to exist – for the common good to be truly served – it must be based upon a correct understanding of the human person as an image of God, whose dignity and sanctity must be affirmed from conception to natural death. This is not Planned Parenthood’s vision, much less that of their founder, Margaret Sanger.

Be assured of my prayers for you as you discern this most grave issue of concern.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Richard F. Stika  
Bishop of Knoxville