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June 22, 1983

Mrs. Barb Olendorf
1103 Hillcrest South
Highland Park, Illinois 60035

Dear Mrs. Olendorf:

I'm sorry I was not in my office when you visited recently to talk about a variety of right to life legislative issues. It was kind of you to comment favorably on my steadfast opposition to Federal financial support for abortions.

The abortion issue is very difficult because of the strongly held beliefs of those who favor it and those who oppose it. It is extraordinarily challenging for our governmental process to deal effectively with such a divisive matter.

I have studied the issue in depth and favor the Eagleton Amendment which states clearly that the right to abortion is not guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. The effect of this Amendment will be to return us to the legal environment which existed before Roe v. Wade in 1973. States would be allowed to regulate the practice of abortion under their power to legislate in areas of health and safety.

Again, thank you for stopping by. If I can be of further assistance on this or any other matter, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin
Member of Congress

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