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March 4, 2016

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The Honorable Andy Harris
Andy Harris for Congress
PO Box 426
Stevensville, MD 21666

Dear Congressman Harris:

According to a newspaper report, Michael Smigiel, who is challenging you in the Republican primary for the 1st Congressional District seat, on February 27 held a “town hall” event in Elkton, at which he made certain allegations regarding your pro-life record in the House.

The story quotes Mr. Smigiel as saying, “Harris isn’t a liberty candidate. No liberty candidate would vote for federal funds to pay for abortions.” This charge is utterly false. To put the most charitable interpretation upon Mr. Smigiel’s statement, he is grossly misinformed.

During your service in the U.S. House, you have been a champion for the pro-life cause. Your pro-life voting record is 100%. Moreover, as a member of the House Appropriations Committee, you have been a leader in efforts to curb the Obama Administration’s relentless efforts to expand federal support for abortion. Your “Harris Amendment,” a measure to prohibit abortion coverage in the multi-state insurance plans created by the Obamacare law, was approved by the House, although regrettably it is not yet law due to adamant resistance from the White House and Democrats in the Senate.

The article quotes Mr. Smigiel as claiming that you voted for “publicly funded abortions” when you voted for certain omnibus appropriations bills. This charge is false. The omnibus appropriations bill passed in December 2015 to keep the federal government operating, as well as every comparable bill previously passed during your time in the House, preserved the Hyde Amendment and other longstanding laws against federal funding of abortion. Whatever the other merits or demerits of these funding bills, you did nothing contrary to pro-life interests by voting for them.

Moreover, contrary to some false claims, none of those appropriations bills contained any earmark, line item, or specific appropriation for Planned Parenthood. It is true that Planned Parenthood currently taps into nationwide federal health programs such as Medicaid, but this can be prevented only by enactment of a new law. You have been a leader in efforts to enact just such a law, most recently by passage of the pro-life budget reconciliation bill (H.R. 3762). Along with a majority of the House, this January you voted to override President Obama’s veto of that bill. The veto was sustained by the Democratic minority – yet, through development of this innovative filibuster-proof legislative initiative, you and your pro-life colleagues have blazed a trail that can be employed to block federal funding to Planned Parenthood, once there is a president willing to sign such a bill.

Your leadership on the Planned Parenthood issue, and on other pro-life issues, was recognized by

Defending Life in America Since 1968

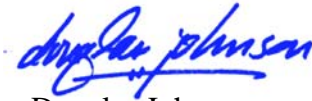
your selection of one of eight pro-life House Republicans to serve on the Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives, which is currently investigating the involvement of Planned Parenthood in trafficking of baby body parts, and related issues.

National Right to Life believes that all voters who are concerned with the right to life and with the protection of the most vulnerable members of the human family should vote to return you to Congress, so that you can continue to work to advance vital pro-life public policies.

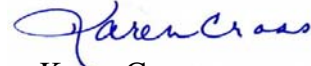
Sincerely,



David N. O'Steen, Ph.D.
Executive Director



Douglas Johnson
Legislative Director



Karen Cross
Political Director