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Trump Signs Bill to Defund Planned Parenthood, Marking Historic Pro-Life Win

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A landmark budget reconciliation bill signed into law by President Donald Trump has officially stripped Planned Parenthood and similar organizations of federal funding for the next year, a move that supporters call a “historic milestone” for the pro-life movement.

The bill, finalized after months of intense debate in Congress, blocks abortion providers from receiving any federal payments, including Medicaid reimbursements. For decades, Planned Parenthood has been the nation’s largest abortion provider, receiving more than

$700 million in taxpayer funding each year. With this law in place, some estimates suggest the organization could be forced to close up to 200 locations nationwide.

Southern Baptists and other faith-based advocates played a key role in building support for the legislation. Brent Leatherwood, president of the Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC), praised Congress for what he called a decisive step toward protecting unborn lives.

“Establishing a true culture of life begins with stopping our taxpayer money from funding Planned Parenthood. That’s just what Congress has done,” Leatherwood said. He described the passage as “a truly historic milestone for the sanctity of life.”

Beyond defunding Planned Parenthood, the bill advances several other priorities long championed by Southern Baptists, including increasing the Child Tax Credit, improving the Adoption Tax Credit, and supporting a Universal Charitable Deduction. The ERLC, which had identified these policies as top goals in January, worked closely with lawmakers and the Trump administration to see them included.

The path to passage was anything but smooth. The Senate vote came down to a 50-50 tie, with Vice President J.D. Vance casting the deciding vote. In the House of Representatives, the final margin was just four votes. The process demonstrated how deeply divided Congress remains over abortion and related funding issues.

Pro-life groups nationwide rallied in the final days before the vote. Last week, thousands gathered in more than 200 demonstrations across the country for a coordinated effort called “Defund Day.” Supporters carried signs and shared personal stories about why they believe taxpayer dollars should never support abortion providers.

Momentum for the bill also grew after a June Supreme Court ruling in Medina v. Planned Parenthood, which upheld states’ rights to exclude abortion clinics from Medicaid programs.

Leatherwood said the bill represents the fruit of decades of consistent advocacy. “Those of us who have been working and praying for the sanctity of life are finally beginning to see real, lasting change,” he said. “We are closer to fully protecting every precious life than we were yesterday.”

While the funding ban lasts only one year, pro-life advocates say it sets the stage for future efforts to end federal subsidies for abortion permanently. For many, this Independence Day carries special meaning, a renewed commitment to defending life.

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