Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
S-221 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
S-231 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader of the House of Representatives
H-204 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 2010

Dear Madam and Sirs,

We are deeply concerned to learn that the Senate Armed Services Committee has taken action to overturn longstanding policy by sanctioning the performance of abortions in both domestic and overseas military facilities - effectively turning military hospitals and other facilities into abortion clinics.

The amendment offered in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 on May 27, 2010 by Senator Roland Burris (D-IL) strikes Section 1093(b) of Title 10 of the US Code. If enacted, this amendment would overturn statute that has been in place since 1996 when President Clinton signed into law the current provision to prevent DOD medical facilities from being used to perform abortions (P. L. 104-106).

In the past, similar amendments to Senator Burris's have been offered in both the House and Senate, and the House has rejected those amendments every time they have been offered since 1996. Most recently in 2006, an amendment was offered to allow abortions in overseas military facilities and it failed by a vote of 191-237. The Burris amendment is even more expansive than the 2006 House amendment because it would allow abortion on both domestic and overseas military bases.

Military treatment centers -- which are dedicated to healing and caring for life -- should not facilitate the taking of the most innocent human life: a child in the womb. Women who wish to obtain abortions are already able to travel off base for an abortion and may travel to another country on a military flight on a “space available” basis.

When President Clinton allowed abortions in military facilities from 1993 to 1996, military physicians (as well as many nurses and supporting personnel) refused to perform or assist in elective abortions and in response, the administration sought to hire civilians to do abortions. If the Burris amendment were enacted, not only would taxpayer funded facilities be used to support abortion on demand, but resources could also be used to search for, hire, and transport new personnel simply so that abortions could be performed.

In light of these serious concerns, we urge you to reject any language in the DOD Authorization bill for FY11 (or subsequent years) which would weaken or undermine current policy. Expanding abortion in government owned and operated military medical facilities is simply unconscionable and morally unacceptable. Our military facilities should be a place of healing and life-saving. They should not be in the business of destroying the unborn.

Sincerely,

W. Todd Akin (MO-02)  
Gene Taylor (MS-04)
Walter Jones (NC-03)

Paul Kanjorski (PA-11)

Peter King (NY-03)

Jack Kingston (GA-01)

Doug Lamborn (CO-05)

Robert Latta (OH-05)

Jerry Lewis (CA-41)

Daniel Lipinski (IL-03)

Blaine Luetkemeyer (MO-09)

Daniel Lungren (CA-03)

Donald Manzullo (IL-16)

Jim Marshall (GA-08)

Michael McCaul (TX-10)

Thaddeus McCotter (MI-11)

Jim Jordan (OH-04)

Dale E. Kildee (MI-05)

Steve King (IA-05)

John Kline (MN-02)

Steven LaTourette (OH-14)

Christopher John Lee (NY-26)

John Lindor (GA-07)

Frank LoBiondo (NJ-02)

Cynthia Lummis (WY-At Large)

Connie Mack (FL-14)

Kenny Marchant (TX-24)

Kevin McCarthy (CA-22)

Tom McClintock (CA-04)

Patrick McHenry (NC-10)
Michael Rogers (AL-03)
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL-18)
Tim Ryan (OH-17)
Jean Schmidt (OH-02)
H. James Sensenbrenner (WI-05)
John Shadegg (AZ-03)
Heath Shuler (NC-11)
Mike Simpson (ID-02)
Christopher Smith (NJ-04)
Cliff Stearns (FL-06)
John Sullivan (OK-01)
Glenn Thompson (PA-05)
Todd Tiahrt (KS-04)
Michael Turner (OH-03)
Peter Roskam (IL-06)
Paul Ryan (WI-01)
Steve Scalise (LA-01)
Aaron Schock (IL-18)
Pete Sessions (TX-32)
John Shimkus (IL-19)
Bill Shuster (PA-09)
Adrian Smith (NE-03)
Lamar Smith (TX-21)
Bart Stupak (MI-01)
Lee Terry (NE-02)
William Thornberry (TX-13)
Patrick Tiberi (OH-12)
Fred Upton (MI-06)
Zach Wamp (TN-03)
Ed Whitfield (KY-01)
Joe Wilson (SC-02)
Frank Wolf (VA-10)
Tom Latham (IA-04)
Steven La Tourette (OH-14)

Lynn Westmoreland (GA-03)
Charles Wilson (OH-06)
Robert Wittman (VA-01)
Don Young (AK)
John Boccieri (OH-16)