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ARTL: Planned Parenthood Affiliates Should Return Money

LITTLE ROCK – The leading pro-life organization in Arkansas is calling for Planned Parenthood affiliates across the U.S. to return \$80 million in funds designated for small businesses through the Paycheck Protection Program.

“The Paycheck Protection Program established by the CARES Act was designed by Congress to help struggling small businesses and nonprofit organizations by giving them access to low-cost loans for expenses like keeping their employees on payroll during this pandemic. It was not designed to give government funds to politicized, partisan abortion providers like Planned Parenthood,” said Rose Mimms, executive director of Arkansas Right to Life.

In a letter signed by 27 U.S. senators, Senator Tom Cotton urges U.S. Attorney General William Barr to investigate the activities of 37 Planned Parenthood affiliates that reportedly applied for and received \$80 million in loans from the Paycheck Projection Program under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Organizations like Planned Parenthood were excluded from receiving the funds according to Small Business Administration (SBA) rules “that employ its type of governance and affiliation structure and exceed the cap on total employees,” Cotton said in the letter.

“Trump administration officials were also quoted in public reports, explicitly clarifying that the SBA’s interim final rule ensured that no funds from the Paycheck Protection Program could go to Planned Parenthood,” he said.

Cotton added, “Most damningly, Planned Parenthood’s own political action committee, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, issued a statement on the CARES Act after the Act’s passage in the Senate, sayings: ‘The bill gives the Small Business Administration broad discretion to exclude Planned Parenthood affiliates and other non-profits serving people with low incomes and deny them benefits under the new small business loan program.’”

“Based on these statements, it seems clear that Planned Parenthood knew that it was ineligible for the small business loans under the CARES Act long before its affiliates fraudulently self-certified that they were eligible,” said Cotton. “As you know, fraudulent loan applications can trigger both civil and criminal penalties.”

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Arkansas Right to Life is the state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee the oldest and largest pro-life organization. For more information visit <https://artl.org/>.