



## Ending Funding of Planned Parenthood

At a posh dinner gathering on May 16, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights presented its annual Hubert H. Humphrey Civil and Human Rights Award to Planned Parenthood (PP) President Cecile Richards. In the numerous flattering comments extolling Richards' accomplishments, Leadership Conference bigwigs said the PP mogul was "a nationally respected leader in women's health and reproductive rights." That's a bit like designating Mao Tse-tung, history's greatest mass murderer, as a premier guardian of life and liberty. PP terminates the life of many thousands each year.



What was the Leadership Conference praising? In its annual report for fiscal 2016, [Planned Parenthood](#) indicated it had performed 321,384 abortions in the United States. For this achievement, claimed the conference leaders, PP deserves thanks and congratulations for creating "a healthier and safer world for women...." Of course, half of the infants slaughtered in the womb by the Cecile Richards-led "health care providers" were females. PP didn't create a "healthier and safer world" for them. The horrifying truth is that roughly 160,000 live female fetuses needed only to be left alone for a matter of weeks in order to become citizens of our free country.

The criminal act of terminating life in the womb costs money. Much of PP's funding to continue its grisly practice comes from the federal government. During fiscal 2016 ending on June 30, 2017, PP's annual report noted receiving \$543.7 million from [federal "reimbursements and grants."](#) Which means that a singularly important financier of killing American human beings in the womb is the U.S. government. And all taxpayers, including a large number of anti-abortion citizens, are compelled to finance slaughtering unborn babes. There is no greater outrage being forced on the American people.

The Leadership Conference that chose to honor Cecile Richards is a coalition of liberal and left-wing groups born in 1950 with 30 organizations as initial members. Its current list of 200 groups includes the following generally known organizations: AARP, ACLU, AFL-CIO, American Federation of Teachers, B'nai B'rith International, United Auto Workers, League of Woman Voters, NAACP, National Education



Written by [John F. McManus](#) on May 29, 2018

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Association, National Organization for Women, People For the American Way, and YWCA. The complete list of its [200-member coalition](#) appears on the conference's website. Undoubtedly, there are opponents of slaughtering in the womb within many of the 200 Leadership Conference groups. Letting these people know that an organization to which they belong is heaping praise on PP's leader and its featured despicable practice is recommended.

Insisting that abortion is a highly condemnable practice soiling the image of our nation ought to be "shouted from the housetops." And compelling America's taxpayers to finance the practice through taxation deserves to be labeled a "criminal act." A realistic assessment of abortion should unabashedly term it "murder." And compelling people to finance what they truly abhor is a cardinal practice of tyrannical governing.

During her acceptance speech at the Leadership Conference ceremony, Cecile Richards sought confirmation for what she has been doing by pointing to herself and PP and stating, "Nobody's free until everyone's free." She and all Americans need to understand that babes in the womb slain by Planned Parenthood aren't free to remain alive until they are born. Therefore, according to her own assessment, nobody else is free. At very least, or until legalized abortion is again deemed a high crime, the federal government should cease funding the murderous organization known as Planned Parenthood.

*John F. McManus is president emeritus of [The John Birch Society](#). This column appeared originally at the [insideJBS](#) blog and is reprinted here with permission.*



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