

September 2008

**Sex-Selection Abortion and Race-Selection Abortion:  
Civil Rights Issues of the 21st Century**

Dear Colleague,

**Sex-selection abortion and race-selection abortion are happening in America,** and they are happening by the hundreds of millions worldwide. Liberals, conservatives, pro-life and pro-choice activists, feminists and prominent members of the civil rights community oppose these tragic practices. Sex-selection abortions and race-selection abortions are barbaric, and they reinforce discriminatory attitudes and practices.

The United States is one of very few countries whose law does not prohibit sex-selection abortion. While the United States sends representatives to the 2007 United Nations' Commission on the Status of Women to spearhead a resolution calling for an end to sex-selection abortion worldwide, our law fails to prohibit this very injustice that is occurring right here on American soil. While the House passed a resolution this summer to condemn China for its sex-selection practices, we fail to protect against the practice here at home, and sometimes even function as a safe haven for international travelers who would seek to evade laws against such discriminatory practices in their home country by coming to America to pay American doctors to perform their sex-selection procedures.

**According to a 2006 Zogby International poll, 86% of Americans believe that sex-selection abortion should be illegal.** The problem exists in the United States, as demonstrated in a March 2008 study published in the Proceedings National Academy of Sciences by two Columbia University economists who found "evidence of sex-selection, most likely at the prenatal stage." The study examined the 2000 Census, at a time before preconception sex-selection practices were widely available, with the data showing clear "son preference," i.e., the elimination of unborn females.

Race-selection abortion received attention earlier this year when audio recordings loaded onto YouTube revealed that employees of family planning clinics across the country were enthusiastically accepting contributions earmarked for the purpose of aborting African-American babies only, from callers who complained that "there are too many blacks in Ohio," or "affirmative action ...disadvantages my son." YouTube has removed several of the video recordings at the behest of abortion providers, but dozens remain available for viewing. PreNDA prohibits the solicitation or acceptance of funds for purposes of financing an abortion on the basis of race, or sex. **It is estimated that as many as 50% of the African-Americans conceived in the U.S. each year are eliminated by government subsidized abortion providers.**

Following the unearthing of the nation-wide race-targeted abortion donations, Dr. Alveda King, niece of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., joined with civil rights activists, and African-American pastors from across the country to protest government acquiescence in race-targeted abortion and the government funding of clinics that they believe are purposefully placed in the inner city and targeted to minority women.

In Washington D.C., Dr. King and the civil rights activists and pastors gathered to protest outside both the Democrat National Committee and the Republican National Committee, demanding that they accept no campaign contributions from Planned Parenthood or other groups that engage in race-based “development” (acceptance of funds). Next, they pressed on to the NAACP Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio to raise awareness within the black activist community and to call on the NAACP to denounce race-selection abortion.

Please join us as an original cosponsor the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act (PreNDA) to help eliminate the performance of sex-selection and race-targeted abortions and the solicitation or acceptance of funds for either. Staff may contact Jacki Pick at [jacki.pick@mail.house.gov](mailto:jacki.pick@mail.house.gov) or 65344 to be added as an original cosponsor.

Sincerely,

Congressman Trent Franks