

**PLANNED PARENTHOOD**  
**MARCH OF DIMES**

April 4, 2002

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Thank you for sharing your concerns about the March of Dimes and Planned Parenthood. Please keep in mind that the March of Dimes works with a wide variety of organizations and individuals to accomplish its mission of improving the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality.

To achieve this mission, the March of Dimes recognizes the role of family planning and preconception care in reducing the risks of birth defects, low birthweight and infant mortality. Therefore, at times, March of Dimes staff and volunteers may participate in coalitions along with Planned Parenthood. And some March of Dimes chapters may give community grants to Planned Parenthood affiliates specifically for preconception health services and for prenatal education services.

However, the March of Dimes does not fund any abortion activities, abortion research or give directive advice on abortions in the course of March of Dimes-supported work, and the Foundation vigilantly monitors all use of its funds. The March of Dimes specifically prohibits researchers who receive Foundation grants from using these funds for abortion activities, abortion research, or directive advice on abortions in the course of March of Dimes-supported research. Every grantee is notified of this policy in writing and must comply or forfeit his/her grant.

While there is no national consensus concerning abortion, there is no question that there is broad agreement on the importance of healthy babies, healthy mothers and healthy children.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide you with accurate information about March of Dimes policies and activities. The Foundation is deeply grateful for your dedication to and support of our lifesaving mission.

Sincerely,  
Todd Grantham  
State Director of Communications  
March of Dimes