

March 30, 2009

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the millions of families represented by our organizations, the undersigned groups would like to express our opposition to the nomination of Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius to become Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Reviewing the record of Gov. Sebelius when she served in the Kansas Legislature, Representative Sebelius voted to weaken or eliminate even such modest measures as unborn victims, parental notification, waiting periods and informed consent. During her time as Governor, Kathleen Sebelius has cut state funding for abortion alternatives, vetoed a bill imposing minimal sanitary standards on abortion clinics, and vetoed a bill that would have strengthened late term abortion law. These actions provide a far better indication of her views on sanctity of life issues than an incidental abortion decline that occurred under her watch.

In addition Governor Sebelius has long close and personal ties to notorious abortionist George Tiller, known for performing late-term abortions in Kansas, include donations from Mr. Tiller of hundreds of thousands of dollars to PACs and organizations controlled by the Kansas Governor. She has also repeatedly interfered in cases brought against Mr. Tiller, including recruiting a candidate to replace the state attorney general who was originally prosecuting the abortion doctor.

The next Secretary of HHS will be in a key position to shape policy on a number of crucial questions. Health care reform, conscience protections and combating HIV/AIDS programs are but a few of the issues that fall under the HHS Secretary. Governor Sebelius is described as having a “wonkish” understanding of health policy, but she has failed to make significant improvements in health coverage or costs during her two terms as governor. The proportion of Kansans who are uninsured has actually grown seven times as fast in the state than in the nation during her tenure. She also has established a record in Kansas of refusing to work with the state legislature in making real reform possible, a trait it is expected she will bring to Washington.

It is for these reasons we ask you to oppose the nomination of Governor Sebelius as HHS Secretary. Thank you for your leadership and we look forward to working with you in this Congress.

Sincerely,

Tom McClusky, Senior Vice President
Family Research Council Action

Keith Wiebe, President
American Association of Christian
Schools

Don Wildmon, President and Founder
American Family Association

Micah Clark, Executive Director
American Family Association of Indiana

Diane Gramley, President
American Family Association of
Pennsylvania

Dr. R. Edgar Bonniwell, Senior minister
of the Faith Christian Fellowship
Church,
Chancellor Kingswell Theological
Seminary, founder of MVCA, Christian
Academy and Executive Director of
Church Coalition for Decency

Harry Valentine
Capitol Hill Prayer Alert

Cathi Herrod, President
Center for Arizona Policy

Jim Backlin, Vice President for
Legislative Affairs
Christian Coalition of America

Phil Burress, President
Citizens for Community Values

Gary Aldrich, Chairman
CNP Action, Inc.

Tom Shields, Chairman
Coalition for Marriage and Family

Wendy Wright, President
Concerned Women for America

David Fowler, President
The Family Action of Tennessee, Inc.

Brian Burch, President
Fidelis

Tom Minnery, Senior Vice President
Government and Public Policy
Focus on the Family

Peggy Hartshorn, President
Heartbeat International

David E. Smith, Executive Director
Illinois Family Institute

Ron Shuping, Executive VP of
Programming
The Inspiration Networks

Phillip L. Jauregui
Judicial Action Group

Kids First Coalition

Colin A. Hanna, President
Let Freedom Ring

Richard W. C. Falknor, Chairman
Maryland Center-Right Coalition

Kris Mineau, President
Massachusetts Family Institute

John Helmberger, CEO
Minnesota Family Council & Institute

Rev. Duane Motley, Executive Director
New Yorkers for Constitutional
Freedoms

David Crowe, Director
Restore America

Jim Martin, President
60 Plus Association

C. Preston Noell III, President
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

Andrea Lafferty, Executive Director
Traditional Values Coalition