



Archdiocese for the Military Services
P.O. Box 4469
Washington, D.C. 20017
202-719-3600

June 17, 2010

Dear Senator:

As one concerned with the moral well-being of the Armed Services, I write in regard to the FY 2011 National Defense Authorization Act (S. 3280). Action by the Senate Armed Services Committee inserted language from Senator Burris to require military hospitals to perform abortions in both domestic and overseas military bases. This is a reversal of longstanding policy, and would contravene our military health care providers' commitment to defending and protecting human life.

To introduce elective abortion in domestic and overseas military hospitals would pressure military physicians, nurses and associated medical personnel to engage in an act of taking innocent human life. Given that abortion is radically different from other medical procedures, military medical personnel themselves have refused to take part in this procedure or even to work where it takes place. Please do not place this very heavy burden upon our wonderful men and women of America's Armed Services. I urge you to support efforts to remove this new language, and to oppose the authorization if it is not removed. The United States is one of the few Nations in the world based on self-evident principles: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Constraining the very men and women committed to defending those principles for the rest of the Country to act against their consciences violates the foundation of this Republic.

Military hospitals have an outstanding record of saving life, even in the most challenging times and conditions. Their commitment extends to the smallest of human beings. Please allow them to continue abiding by these values.

Thanking you for your kind consideration in this matter, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Timothy P. Broglio'.

(Most Reverend) Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the Military Services