



## NEWS RELEASE

March 22, 2010

**SUBJECT** Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper betrayed the pro-life cause

**CONTACT** Tim Broderick (814) 882-1333

Actions speak louder than words. Yesterday, self-described "pro-life democrat" Kathy Dahlkemper voted to deliver the biggest setback to the pro-life cause since the imposition of Roe v. Wade in 1973.

Last night Marjorie Dannenfelser, the president of the Susan B. Anthony List, a prominent pro-life political action committee that had backed Dahlkemper, said, "Let me be clear: any representative who votes for this healthcare bill can no longer call themselves 'pro-life.'" This certainly applies to Dahlkemper. She betrayed her pro-life constituents. Nineteen pro-life democrats, including Pennsylvania Congressmen Jason Altmire and Tim Holden, voted against the bill.

Yesterday afternoon, Rep. Dahlkemper went before the cameras to announce her betrayal invoking a different label: "whole life." According to this formulation, it seems that abortion is still murder -- murder that has been legalized throughout the first nine months of life, as Dahlkemper seems to understand --, but it's okay to pay for it and expand it as long as it is done for the good of society as Dahlkemper perceives it. And so the ends justify the means.

Even more remarkable than her betrayal of the pro-life cause is Dahlkemper's fanciful claim that an executive order from President Barack Obama can or will magically override the clear language of the health care bill, which will now become federal law. It is hard to imagine that any member of Congress could honestly believe that.

Even if it were possible for a president to summarily nullify standing law with an executive order, who would seriously entertain the notion that this president -- Obama --, who has publicly committed himself to making abortion the centerpiece of his plans for our nation's health care system (speech to Planned Parenthood Action Fund, July 17, 2007), would break that commitment now that government-funded abortion has been dropped in his lap? It is well-documented that President Obama, who to his credit does not pretend to be pro-life, has consistently done everything in his power to defend and expand abortion and promote the government funding of abortion throughout his political career.