



T E X A S

**Alliance for Life**

Changing Hearts, Saving Lives

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Travis County Healthcare District Board to Consider Tax-Funded Abortions**

AUSTIN--The **Travis County Healthcare District** (TCHD) board of managers is expected to consider taxpayer funding for elective abortions at a meeting Thursday, Oct. 22.

The board will likely vote on renewing a \$450,000 contract with abortion providers at its meeting Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the Travis County Commissioner's Courtroom in the Granger Building, 314 W. 11th St. The issue is #9 on the **agenda**.

"We are outraged that the board of the Travis County Healthcare District plans to spend nearly \$500,000 in property tax dollars for abortion on demand," says Texas Alliance for Life Executive Director Joe Pojman, Ph.D. "We believe most County residents oppose being forced to pay for abortion with their property taxes."

Texas Alliance for Life is actively raising awareness of the TCHD's allocation of funds for abortions and is urging Travis County residents to contact members of the TCHD board of managers to protest.

Since the TCHD was created by Travis County voters in 2004, it has been taking over the Medical Assistance Programs that had previously been jointly operated by the City of Austin and Travis County, including programs operated by the Austin-Travis County Health and Human Services Department.

The TCHD's revenue comes from property taxes within Travis County. Its annual budget, recently approved and available at [http://www.traviscountyhd.org/annual\\_budget.html](http://www.traviscountyhd.org/annual_budget.html), shows \$450,000 per year budgeted for abortion (See line item "Women's Services," account 62.94, on p. 5). The abortion funding does not appear to come from the state family planning grants, which is prohibited by state and federal law.

TCHD does not perform abortions at any of the several clinics throughout the county that it runs for low-income clients. Rather, women are given a voucher that is taken to one of two contractors: Whole Women's Health of Austin and Austin Women's Health Center. The five-year contracts expire in December 2009. The TCHD is expected to renew the contracts at its meeting on Oct. 22.

To arrange an interview with Pojman, please contact Director of Communications Valerie Pokorny.

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*Texas Alliance for Life (TAL) is a non-sectarian, non-partisan, pro-life organization of people committed to protecting innocent human lives from conception through natural death through peaceful, legal means. TAL is a statewide organization based in the Texas capital.*