

## WHY FISCAL CONSERVATIVES SHOULD SUPPORT FAMILY PLANNING

When I served as CEO of a major U.S. insurance company, I focused on identifying corporate investments that would bring the greatest returns. As we approach the time when federal budget priorities must be decided, I am writing to suggest to fiscal conservatives in Congress and the country that by far the biggest fiscal return for any government investment lies in *family planning*.

Conservatives quite rightly worry about the upward trajectory of Medicaid, food stamps, and various other welfare programs. All of these programs can be greatly reduced by investments in family planning.

I currently chair a charitable organization which provides research on this very issue. The chief researcher and founder, Michael Gottlieb, is also a former CEO, who has turned his talents to this matter. His conclusions are extremely compelling.

The government currently invests 2.4 billion dollars each year in family planning through Title X and Medicaid. Within a year after this investment, savings amount to 22 billion dollars, and after 12 years the savings exceeds 170 billion dollars. And these are just the savings from one year's investment. These savings derive from reductions in the government programs mentioned, as well as reduced education expenses due to over 900,000 unintended pregnancies avoided.

But much more could be done. Unintended pregnancies are currently almost 50% of births in the U.S. Current family planning funds support 40% of the people in the safety-net who wish to postpone creating a family. Another 30% would like to use effective contraception, but either can't afford it or don't have access to a clinic. So the best thing conservatives could do is to increase the investment

in family planning. Instead sadly, Congress is dismantling what we have now, which would trade a small current savings for a huge increase in future government welfare-related expenses.

In addition to obtaining dramatic returns on investment, conservatives are also interested in reducing abortions. Current family planning expenditures reduce the number of abortions by 678,000, according to the Guttmacher Institute. Cutting the investment in family planning will lead to a marked *increase* in abortions.

All of our research and assumptions are available for scrutiny on our website, [Smartfamilyplanning.com](http://Smartfamilyplanning.com). A summary of our work is also available in an article written by a leading economist, Lawrence Kotlikoff, in Forbes Magazine.

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