



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **SUSAN HUTCHISON HAS DIRECTED NEARLY \$600,000 IN RECENT YEARS TO ANTI-CHOICE GROUPS**

***Hutchison's anti-choice activism includes funding so-called "crisis pregnancy centers" – now we know why she won't answer the question about where she stands on choice***

Seattle (November 1) – King County Executive candidate Susan Hutchison has steadfastly refused to answer questions on where she stands on a woman's right to choose.

Over the last four years while serving on the board of a socially conservative foundation, Hutchison has directed nearly \$600,000 to support anti-choice efforts, including more than \$150,000 to support the extreme anti-choice group Americans United for Life, as well over \$150,000 more to an anti-choice so-called "crisis pregnancy center" in Tacoma.

Hutchison has worked hard to conceal her staunch social conservatism, and repeatedly states that her position on choice has nothing to do with the office of the King County Executive.

In fact, the opposite is true. King County government, through its nine health clinics, provides family planning, pregnancy counseling and abortion referrals to more than 17,000 mostly poor women who have nowhere else to turn for help.

“Given Susan Hutchison’s recent track record of anti-choice activism, women across King County should rightfully be worried if she is elected the next King County Executive,” Dana Laurent, Political Director for Planned Parenthood Votes! Washington said. “The people of King County have demonstrated that they are pro-choice, and Susan Hutchison is wildly out of step with their views.”

“She claims now that she won’t change policies at the County’s health clinics, but she has already been caught several times during this campaign hiding her true position on issues – for instance, after months of claiming to support light rail, she recently admitted that she actually opposes the light rail expansion plan passed by the voters last year. With the control she would exert over Seattle King County Public Health as Executive, access to a full range of reproductive health services and information at family planning service centers could well be at risk,” Elaine Rose, CEO of Planned Parenthood Votes! Washington added.

#### **THE FACTS:**

Since 2003, Susan Hutchison has held a seat on the board of the Stewardship Foundation, founded by arch-conservative timber magnate David Weyerhaeuser. From 2003 to present, the foundation has given \$593,600 in grant money to anti-choice causes. That total includes \$250,000 to Care Net of Sterling, VA, \$188,600 to Care Net Crisis Pregnancy Center of Pierce County in Tacoma, WA, and \$165,000 to Americans United for Life, according to public records.

The crisis pregnancy center model was established with the express purpose of reversing the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, according to “A National History of the Pregnancy Centers” provided on the website of Care Net Pregnancy and Family Services of Pierce County.

According to an article in the Kitsap Sun in 2008, Care Net self identifies as a “Christian pregnancy center” that would not make abortion referrals because of its religious tenets.

The Stewardship Foundation has also provided nearly \$50,000 to fund abstinence-only until marriage sexual education efforts provided by Care Net in Tacoma. Care Net’s series of “SMART” programs, including SMART Love and SMART Homes, are designed to teach parents and children “sexual purity,” help safeguard against “sexual temptation,” and aid young people in “choosing future spouses,” according to the organization’s website.

In addition, the Stewardship Foundation gave \$200,000 in grants since 2003 to Care Net Sterling, VA., which bills itself as promoting “a culture of life through the delivery of valuable, life-affirming, evangelistic ministry to people facing unplanned pregnancies and related sexual issues.... We also envision a future where people will be transformed by the Gospel and desire to live out their lives in accordance with God's design for sexuality.”

Hutchison's Stewardship Foundation has also given \$165,000 in grants since 2003 to Americans United for Life, a national anti-choice group.

Americans United for Life, which describes itself as the “oldest national pro-life organization” in America, stated its intent to end the “social experiment” of choice by “educating citizens to the reality that abortion hurts women.” According to Americans United for Life’s website, “The social experiment in abortion on demand, imposed by the judiciary in 1973, has disastrously failed by ending the lives of more than 30 million children while damaging the physical and emotional health of millions of women...In addition to providing the maximum legal protection to unborn children, the legislative process itself and the accompanying media coverage serves the goal of educating citizens to the reality that abortion hurts women.”

"The bottom line here is that Susan Hutchison is wrong on choice, and she is the wrong choice to lead King County," Dana Laurent, Political Director for Planned Parenthood Votes! Washington said.

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**Planned Parenthood Votes! Washington** (PPVW) is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization educating Washingtonians and policy-makers about reproductive health issues.

VOTES! lobbies and educates to advance Planned Parenthood's mission and also engages in limited electoral activities.