



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

May 3, 2011

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
235 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Minority Leader Pelosi:

We write in strong opposition to H.R. 3, the misleadingly named "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act," because it has nothing to do with federal funds. The bill would prohibit the District of Columbia from using its own, locally-raised funds to support abortion services for low-income women.

The bill would overturn the rule of local government. Republicans and Democrats nationwide believe that local governments should decide what is best with respect to local issues. This belief is bedrock American principle that extends from the original Founding Fathers to today's Tea Party activists. It is also the principle underlying your own Home Rule Act for the District -- the purpose of which is "*to relieve Congress of the burden of legislating upon essentially local District matters.*"

H.R. 3 would make the District of Columbia ***the only jurisdiction in the country*** that is prohibited from choosing whether or not to use its own locally-raised funds to support low-income abortion services. It would be a Pyrrhic victory for abortion opponents, as it does nothing to affect Congress' inability to overrule the 17 states that currently fund abortion services for low-income residents.

The 600,000 residents of the District have neither a voice nor a vote in the Congress to defend against this renewed assault that is H.R. 3. We urge members of Congress to respect the District and the fundamental American principle of local rule. We urge you to be helpful, not harmful, to our efforts to improve public health and safety. We urge you to vote against H.R. 3.

Sincerely,

Chairman, Kwame R. Brown

David A. Catania, Councilmember At-Large

Phil Mendelson, Councilmember At-Large

Michael A. Brown, Councilmember At-Large

Sekou Biddle, Councilmember At-Large

Jim Graham, Councilmember Ward 1

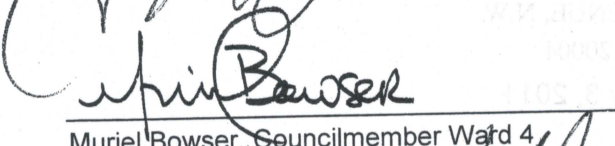
Signatures Cont'd, p.2



(Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi)

May 3, 2011


Jack Evens, Councilmember Ward 2


Muriel Bowser, Councilmember Ward 4


Tommy Wells, Councilmember Ward 6


Marion Barry, Councilmember Ward 8


Mary M. Cheh, Councilmember Ward 3


Harry Thomas, Jr., Councilmember Ward 5


Yvette Alexander, Councilmember Ward 7

Cc: President Barack Obama
Senate Majority Leader Reid
Senate Minority Leader McConnell
Speaker John Boehner