

Sample Op Ed Supporting International Family Planning

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An unintended pregnancy can be very dangerous for women and families, especially in the developing world. The mother's life can be at risk if the pregnancy is too close to the birth of another child, and her children can be at risk if she is not able to care for them. A child in the developing world has an even greater risk of dying if the mother dies, or he or she has siblings very close in age. According to the World Health Organization, a space of three years between births supports optimal health for mothers and children.

Access to family planning services to enable women to space their pregnancies in a manner that is healthy and allows families to grow at a rate they can afford benefits women, children, families, and entire communities. In addition, we know that in areas where family planning methods are being used by the greatest number of women, abortion rates are much lower than in those areas where only a small proportion of women have access to family planning methods. Empowering women and families to avoid abortion should be a priority for us all.

Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH) membership strongly supports family planning where it is understood to mean voluntary prevention of pregnancy, not including abortion. CCIH members working in the poorest regions of the world offer family planning services consistent with a family's faith along with other health services, as they recognize it reduces abortion and is crucial in protecting the health of women and children. I urge policy makers to support programs to enable couples to safely plan the births of their children.

Sincerely,

Name, Address, Email/Phone