

Are American Taxpayers Underwriting Israeli Abortions?



That's the argument the [pro-life community has made for years](#) regarding taxpayer support for Planned Parenthood. In 2012 for instance, Planned Parenthood received \$542 million in taxpayer dollars for services ranging from cancer screenings and breast exams to birth control. Congress bars Planned Parenthood from using any of that money for abortion services, but critics rightly note that such funding assists in maintaining the human and physical infrastructure in which abortions take place.

The same could be said for aid to Israel, where thanks to the government's abortion license, an estimated 50,000 unborn Jewish children will perish this year, bringing the total since the founding of Israel to nearly [two million](#). And that doesn't include the thousands of abortions performed on women who cross into Israel from Palestine, where the procedure is illegal except to save the life of the

mother. The State of Israel is a liberal democracy and a long-time American ally in the Middle East. It is also rigorously secular, despite the fevered imaginations of American Christians, who confuse the modern Jewish State with Eretz Yisrael, the biblical Land of Israel. As a modern, secular state, Israel has decided to permit abortion on demand and fund it from the public purse. American taxpayers augment that purse annually, which makes us complicit in the culture of death, whether we like it or not.

The website of the Israeli pro-life organization, "[Friends of Efrat](#)," has a lovely story about the origin of its name:

“According to the Midrash, when Pharaoh commanded the midwives to kill all newborn Jewish male babies, he was speaking to the Hebrew midwives Yocheved and Miriam. The question arises: how could Pharaoh ask Hebrew midwives to kill Hebrew babies – why didn't he ask this of Egyptian midwives? How could he think Hebrew midwives would be willing to kill Jewish babies?

“Pharaoh’s answer, as stated to the midwives, was: “What kind of life is it anyway to be in poverty and bondage?” But Yocheved and Miriam didn't listen and did everything they could to promote Jewish childbirth in Egypt, as it is written: “and they saved the children” (Exodus 1:17).

“After these events, Miriam was given the additional name Efrat, since the word "Efrat" has the same root found in the Hebrew words “pru u’revu” which means, “be fruitful and multiply.””

Like Yocheved and Miriam, American Catholics should resist Pharaoh, whether here or in Israel. We could begin by asking why our tax dollars are permitted to underwrite his latest assault on human dignity.