

National Black Church Initiative

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For immediate release
PRESS RELEASE

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NATIONAL BLACK CHURCH INITIATIVE CONDEMNS ABORTION DOCTOR SHOOTING

THE TRAGEDY CONTINUES AROUND THE ISSUE OF ABORTION

Washington, DC, -- June 10, 2009. Again the National Black Church Initiative must raise its voice and condemn the shooting death of Dr. George Tiller. Despite what side of the issue you fall on concerning abortion, it is morally wrong and reprehensible to use violence as a means to express one's opposition to this issue. The church will not be silent on the issue of violence. We will always raise our voice in opposition. We must make it very clear that Scott Roeder, who killed Dr. Tiller in a religious institution, has committed what we believe to be domestic terrorism. We pray for the soul of and families of Dr. Tiller and Mr. Roeder.

All people of good will must realize that abortion is legal, and a woman has a right to choose which path she will take, and all the killing in the world will not change this fact. Even though the National Black Church Initiative is not in favor of abortion we would never allow any of our churches to use violence to express that point of view nor would we condone it. Mr. Roeder's actions should be condemned by every segment of this society.

The Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI, said, "I whole-heartedly agree with the leadership of the pro-choice movement when they say that this type of violence has no place in the abortion debate and that everyone should condemn Mr. Roeder's actions loudly and clearly. We are calling on the Justice Department to see whether or not Dr. Tiller's murder should be considered a hate crime. We hope that the Justice Department will use the fullest extent of the law for this violent and unnecessary act of taking another

human beings life. We are equally disturbed that he would gun down Dr. Tiller in a house of worship. Violence has no place in our churches or any religious institution, no matter the religion or the denomination.”

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI), a coalition of 16,000 African-American and Latino member churches works to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare. In addition to our member churches, we have 18,000 sister churches. NBCI is a faith-based health organization dedicated to providing critical wellness information and preventive health screening to all of its members. The African-American community ranks first in eleven different health risk categories. NBCI’s purpose is to partner with national health officials to provide health education, reduce racial health disparities, and increase access to quality healthcare.