



September 22, 2015

The Honorable Governor Rick Scott
The Capitol
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Governor Scott:

Thank you for ordering investigations of the Planned Parenthood facilities in Florida that perform abortions. No doubt the recent undercover videos by the Center for Medical Progress depicting senior Planned Parenthood officials discussing their current unlawful practices, including harvesting and selling baby parts for profit, had some influence on your decision.

Former Governor Jeb Bush, in the first and second 2016 GOP Presidential Debates, stated that he defunded Planned Parenthood in Florida during his time as governor. While direct state funding for abortions may have been cut from Planned Parenthood clinics that perform abortions, Planned Parenthood continues to receive state funds from Florida taxpayers through a number of state programs, including Florida's Medicaid program.

Planned Parenthood has a growing record of investigations and fines for illegal activity both nationally, and in Florida:

- In 2008, former Florida PPFA affiliate Planned Parenthood of South Palm Beach and Broward Counties faced allegations of “terrible mismanagement and possibly fraud” related to nearly \$450,000.¹
- Planned Parenthood has also failed to prioritize the health and safety of women and was cited for deficiencies in Fort Myers, Naples, Pembroke Pines, and St. Petersburg just this year.
- In the recent investigation, 4 clinics were cited for violations, including 3 clinics that were illegally performing second-trimester abortions, and were ordered to temporarily stop all abortions.

This is merely a short list of the abuses committed by Planned Parenthood in Florida, not including its stunning failure to report sexual abuse of minors, waste, abuse, and potential fraud of taxpayer dollars. Planned Parenthood has demonstrated a pattern and practice of ignoring state and federal laws intended to safeguard the health and safety of all women.

¹ See *Planned Parenthood Cuts Ties with 5 Clinics*, MIAMI HERALD (July 2, 2008).

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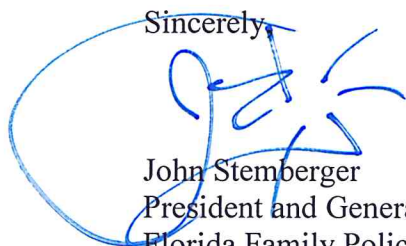
I write on behalf of millions of Floridians to request that you take executive action to terminate Florida's Medicaid contract with Planned Parenthood. The organization lacks the ethical and moral legitimacy required to continue to receive these funds. No organization with a record of illegal activity and abuse, now found to also illegally sell baby parts and likely altering abortion practices to do so, should receive taxpayer dollars. Florida's tax dollars and Medicaid funds would be better spent supporting the 636 federally approved community health clinics in the state.

Notably, other states such as Alabama, Arkansas, and Louisiana have already made the prudent decision to exclude Planned Parenthood from their Medicaid programs. Other Governors are currently contemplating similar action as well. As Governor of the great state of Florida, you have the clear legal authority to terminate Medicaid contracts with unqualified providers of services. As Governor, you also have a moral duty to do so given Planned Parenthood's egregious conduct. We have provided your General Counsel with case law regarding your legal authority to defund Planned Parenthood and the constitutionality of such an action.

In addition to Medicaid funding, Planned Parenthood clinics in Collier and Broward counties also receive Title X funds through sub-contracts with the county health departments. I respectfully request that you discontinue these arrangements as well.

The people of Florida deserve nothing less than ensuring their tax dollars are being used to benefit, not detriment, their great state, and can best be served by ensuring not a penny more of their tax dollars goes to this corrupt and unethical organization. Thank you for your time and consideration of my request. I look forward to hearing from you and hope that you will take immediate action to redirect funding away from Planned Parenthood to more deserving health clinics that provide a broader spectrum of care to the women and families in our state.

Sincerely,



John Stemberger
President and General Counsel
Florida Family Policy Council
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cc - Melissa Sellers, Chief of Staff
Tim Cerio, General Counsel