



October 20, 2015

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Mr. Chris Traylor
Executive Commissioner
Texas Health and Human Services Commission
4900 N. Lamar Blvd.
Austin, TX 78751-2316

Dear Governor Abbott and Commissioner Traylor:

The Texas Conservative Coalition (TCC) applauds the decision by HHSC's Inspector General to issue a Notice of Termination to the state's Planned Parenthood affiliates, which sets in motion the process to end the organization's enrollment in the Texas Medicaid program. Based on the evidence presented in the Inspector General's (IG) notice, we agree that Planned Parenthood affiliates "are no longer capable of performing medical services in a professionally competent, safe, legal, and ethical manner."

Planned Parenthood's Medicaid violations are serious and several: altering the timing and method of abortion, in violation of federal law, in order to procure fetal tissue; failing to abide by public health precautions that prevent the spread of infectious disease; and failing to abide by mandatory staff training requirements. These violations were partially demonstrated in video footage released earlier this year by the Center for Medical Progress. Having seen those recordings, some of which were filmed in Houston, we ardently feel that there must be consequences for revealed practices that not only shock the conscience, but are also against the law. The termination, thus, strikes us as necessary and appropriate.

Additionally, we continue to be greatly disturbed by news of illegal billing and fraud performed by Planned Parenthood, of which the Inspector General has received new information. In light of the court cases referenced in the IG's letter, in which former Planned Parenthood employees alleged fraudulent billing to Medicaid and other publically funded programs, the organization's

unethical reimbursement practices appear to be a perpetual problem that is not being adequately addressed internally. We look forward to learning more about the more recent information received by the Inspector General and would like to assist if and when appropriate.

It bears mention that the termination, as the Inspector General states, will *not* limit access to health care because of the “thousands of alternate providers in Texas” that are available to provide family planning services. The Texas Women’s Health Program (TWHP) has served, since 2013, as an exemplary model of this state’s ability to build and maintain an adequate network of family planning providers across the state without the inclusion of any Planned Parenthood affiliates. The state’s other family planning programs, as well as the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program, have followed suit, further affirming that a sufficient provider network is available. Pro-abortion advocates of Planned Parenthood, therefore, would be dishonest to argue that the termination significantly impairs women’s access to non-abortion services like pap tests, breast cancer exams, and HIV detection.

With investigations regarding Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers’ practices still ongoing, but crucial facts already definitively established, TCC strongly supports terminating Planned Parenthood’s enrollment in the Texas Medicaid program. Based on Planned Parenthood’s demonstrated disregard for patient rights and safety, and the proven availability of other credible family planning providers across the state, it is imperative that these termination proceedings move forward to better protect the health and safety of low-income women enrolled in the Texas Medicaid program. We are available to assist your offices, and we are prepared to take legislative action when the time comes.

Sincerely,



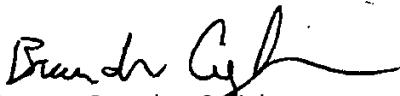
Senator Paul Bettencourt



Senator Brian Birdwell



Senator Donna Campbell



Senator Brandon Creighton



Senator Bob Hall



Senator Kelly Hancock



Senator Don Huffines



Senator Lois Kolkhorst



Senator Jane Nelson



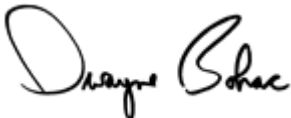
Senator Larry Taylor



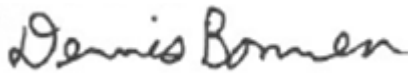
Representative Charles "Doc" Anderson



Representative Cecil Bell Jr.



Representative Dwayne Bohac



Representative Dennis Bonnen



Representative Greg Bonnen



Representative Cindy Burkett



Representative Angie Chen Button



Representative Tom Craddick



Representative Myra Crownover



Representative DeWayne Burns



Representative Dustin Burrows



Representative Giovanni Capriglione



Representative Byron Cook



Representative Tony Dale



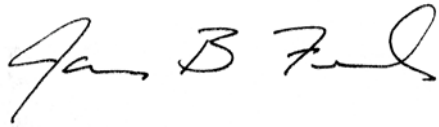
Representative Gary Elkins



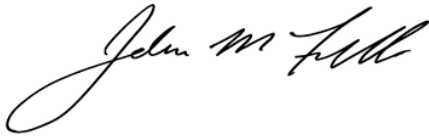
Representative Pat Fallon



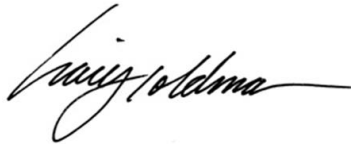
Representative Dan Flynn



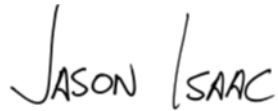
Representative James Frank



Representative John Frullo



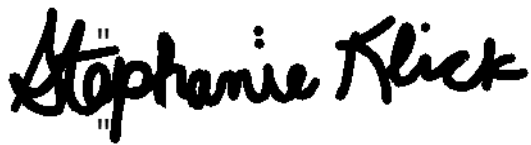
Representative Craig Goldman



Representative Jason Isaac



Representative Phil King



Representative Stephanie Klick



Representative Matt Krause



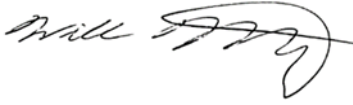
Representative Brooks Landgraf



Representative Jodie Laubenberg



Representative Jeff Leach



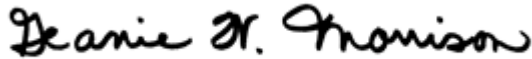
Representative Will Metcalf



Representative Morgan Meyer



Representative Rick Miller



Representative Geanie Morrison



Representative Jim Murphy



Representative Andrew Murr



Representative Chris Paddie



Representative Tan Parker



Representative Dennis Paul



Representative Larry Phillips



Representative Matt Rinaldi



Representative Matt Shaheen



Representative Kenneth Sheets



Representative Ron Simmons



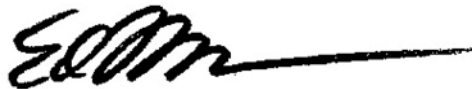
Representative David Simpson



Representative Stuart Spitzer



Representative Drew Springer



Representative Ed Thompson



Representative Scott Turner



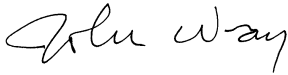
Representative Gary VanDeaver



Representative James White



Representative Paul Workman



Representative John Wray



Representative Bill Zedler