

December 23, 2015

Hon. Gary E. Clary
Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee
House Legislative Oversight Committee
228 Blatt Building
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Chairman Clary,

I have received the Committee's additional questions in a letter dated December 14, 2015; the Department's responses are as follows:

- 1) *Is the agency's relationship with abortion providers in South Carolina of such a nature so as to allow the agency to be in a position to ascertain any information pertaining to an abortion provider's possible acceptance of reimbursements for the donation of fetal tissue? If yes, has the agency made any referrals to law enforcement pertaining to an abortion provider's acceptance of reimbursements for the donation of fetal tissue?*

No, the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS) pays enrolled providers for services allowable under the State Plan for Medical Assistance or various approved waiver programs. We have not encountered evidence of any reimbursements of the type described above.

- 2) *Has the agency provided any state funding to Planned Parenthood or any other abortion provider for pregnancy prevention or comprehensive health education instruction? If so, is there any difference in how the amount Planned Parenthood receives versus other abortion providers is determined?*

Yes, SCDHHS provides payment for an array of contraceptive management and education services for Medicaid beneficiaries. Payment for allowable claims is determined by the Medicaid fee schedule; Planned Parenthood enrolls and bills in the same manner as other providers.

- 3) *What agency controls are in place so as to determine if abortion providers in South Carolina that receive funds from the agency for a specific purpose do not commingle those funds with other public or private funding?*

The Department has a variety of systems and methods in place to detect, deter, and control waste, fraud, and abuse of the Medicaid program. These efforts are coordinated by our Program Integrity unit, but also involve the participation and support of the individual program areas and also other state agencies.

Ultimately, the Department pays abortion providers based on allowable claims submitted. We have an obligation to ensure that the payments we make are appropriate, but in the absence of an active investigation, our legal authority does not generally extend to a point that would require or even likely allow the Department to monitor a provider's subsequent decisions about how to manage or account for its Medicaid reimbursements.

Please feel free to contact me with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of Christian L. Soura.

Christian L. Soura
Director