

Chairman Wm. Weston J. Newton

*First Vice-Chair:
Laurie Slade Funderburk*

Legislative Oversight Committee

*Nathan Ballentine
Gary E. Clary
Kirkman Finlay III
Joseph H. Jefferson Jr.
Walton J. McLeod
Joshua Putnam
Samuel Rivers Jr.
Tommy M. Stringer
Bill Taylor*



South Carolina House of Representatives

*William K. (Bill) Bowers
Raye Felder
Phyllis J. Henderson
Mia S. McLeod
Ralph W. Norman
Robert L. Ridgeway III
James E. Smith Jr.
Edward R. Tallon Sr.
Robert Q. Williams*

*Jennifer L. Dobson
Research Director*

Post Office Box 11867

Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Telephone: (803) 212-6810 • Fax: (803) 212-6811

Room 228 Blatt Building

*Charles L. Appleby IV
Legal Counsel*

*Cathy A. Greer
Administration Coordinator*

*Carmen J. McCutcheon
Research Analyst*

January 22, 2016

The Honorable Alan Wilson
Rembert C. Dennis Office Building
Post Office Box 11549
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

HAND-DELIVERED

RE: Request for an Attorney General Opinion

Dear Attorney General Wilson:

An opinion is respectfully requested on a matter of interest to the ad hoc committee of the House of Representatives' Legislative Oversight Committee. **As time is of the essence in this matter of interest to the ad hoc committee, it would be appreciated if you could respond to this request by Thursday, January 28, 2016, if possible.**

On August 26, 2015, a motion was adopted for the House Oversight Committee to commence an investigation into state agencies, including, but not limited to the Department of Social Services, the Department of Health and Environmental Control, and Department of Health and Human Services, relationship with, funding of, and other activities relating to Planned Parenthood facilities and other abortion providers in South Carolina. On September 3, 2015, an ad hoc committee was appointed to undertake the study as stated in the motion. The ad hoc committee's study will be submitted for consideration by the full committee. Any legislator may file legislation, which will go through the normal legislative process, to implement study recommendations.

During the ad hoc committee's study of the Department of Health and Environmental Control, on January 11, 2016, the agency was asked if it had any recommendations for improvement of existing laws. One of

Page Two
The Honorable Alan Wilson

the agency's recommendations was to consider limiting the abortions that can be performed in an abortion clinic to those within the first eighteen weeks of pregnancy, beginning with conception rather than calculated on the basis of the menstrual cycle. At its meeting on January 21, 2016, the ad hoc committee approved a motion to seek an opinion from your office as to whether this recommendation from the agency may conflict with any federal statute or case law.

As previously stated, time is of the essence in this request for an opinion as the ad hoc committee would like to meet next Thursday or as soon thereafter as possible. If you need additional information to assist in generating this opinion, please do not hesitate ask.

Sincerely,

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Gary E. Clary
Ad Hoc Committee Chair

cc: Ad Hoc Committee Members
The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman House Legislative Oversight Committee