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## **Legislative Oversight Committee**



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Dear Director  
Heigel:

## **South Carolina House of Representatives**

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Research Director*

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November 13, 2015

*Charles L. Appleby IV  
Legal Counsel*

### VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

Ms. Catherine Heigel  
Director

South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

On behalf of the entire Ad Hoc Committee, I would like to thank you and your staff for sharing your time and knowledge with the committee. During the November 12, 2015, meeting, the following information was requested from the agency:

- Is an abortion clinic considered an outpatient surgery center, and if not, what type of entity is it considered by the agency for regulation purposes?
- What is the actual cost to the agency to conduct a typical inspection of an abortion clinic?
- Do the inspection fees, not considering fines or penalties, collected by the agency from an abortion clinic cover the actual cost to the agency for a typical inspection?
- If the actual cost to conduct a typical inspection is less than the inspection fee collected, will the agency seek an increase in the inspection fee so that it covers the actual cost?
- Please provide a final tally of the fees, fines, and penalties collected to date and what each fee, fine, and penalty is for.
- When the agency collects fines and penalties, how is the money distributed? Specifically, are the funds obtained from fines and fees held in a particular agency department, or may they be used generally by the agency?

- Please provide a copy of any postoperative instructions provided to patients advising them how to handle potential operation complications.

Director Heigel

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- Please provide any available data relating to postoperative complications, including, but not limited to, abortion complications in hospitals and abortion clinics. Is this an area in which the agency currently has regulatory authority, or an area in which the agency could propose regulation changes which would allow for collection of this information?

This information, along with this letter, will be posted on the committee's website. After reviewing the information, the committee will determine whether it needs you to appear at the next committee meeting. Therefore, please tentatively hold your calendar open on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, the date of the committee's next scheduled meeting. This ad hoc committee looks forward to working with you and the agency staff during the legislative oversight process and to receiving the follow up information.

Sincerely,



Gary E. Clary  
Ad Hoc Committee Chair

cc: Ad Hoc Committee Members  
The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton