



House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

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Committees:

Chairman, Operations and
Management

Chairman, Ways and Means
Property Tax Subcommittee

Member, Legislative Audit
Council

July 21, 2015

William Weston J. Newton, Chairman
South Carolina House of Representatives
Legislative Oversight Committee
1105 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Chairman Newton:

Given recent news media and my discussions with staff in department agencies, I would suggest to the Legislative Oversight Committee, when they review the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the South Carolina Department of Social Services (DSS), that they look at the following issues.

As you may already know, the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) is under investigation by the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Investigations. The scope of the investigation is to examine the institutional practices and policies of PPFA and its affiliates, and its handling of federal funding. In 2009 PPFA reported receiving \$363 million in "government grants and contracts." There are two Planned Parenthood affiliates in South Carolina, one in Columbia and the other in Charleston. The affiliate in Columbia, S.C., performs abortions and both affiliates advertise that they accept Medicaid clients.

Specifically, during an audit of DHHS and DSS, the audit should determine:

- 1) how much government funding the two Planned Parenthood centers in South Carolina received in 2010;
- 2) whether there has been improper billing related to federally funded programs;
- 3) proof that government funds are not being used improperly to pay for abortions; and,
- 4) documentation of how Planned Parenthood affiliates in South Carolina keep their family planning (pregnancy prevention) and abortion monies separate and segregated.

There is indication that government funding of the two Planned Parenthood centers in South Carolina is not fully documented or accounted for in detail. Information provided by South Carolina Citizens for Life (SCCL) Executive Director Holly Gatling highlights three areas of concern:

1. Although the two Planned Parenthood centers in South Carolina advertise that they accept Medicaid clients, the S.C. Department of Health and Human Services website shows only one S.C. Medicaid reimbursement in 2010. This is a single payment of \$35,635.68 to the medical director of the Columbia affiliate. There are no reimbursements listed for the Planned Parenthood affiliate in Charleston. It seems implausible that Planned Parenthood of Columbia received only one Medicaid reimbursement and Planned Parenthood of Charleston received none.

2. According to its own Form 990 for 2010, Planned Parenthood Health Systems Inc. of Raleigh, N.C., reported income of \$403,789 in Medicare/Medicaid funding; and \$228,858 in federal funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The two S.C. affiliates are in the Raleigh network. Again this raises questions about the accuracy of reported Medicaid reimbursement to Planned Parenthood in South Carolina.

3. Another troubling figure is the S.C. Department of Social Services budget that shows more \$1.5 million allocated for "pregnancy prevention." The current DSS budget includes \$1,093,944 of recurring state funding for "pregnancy prevention" and \$457,728 in federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families for "pregnancy prevention." Did any of this money go to Planned Parenthood?

Given that members of the U.S. House of Representatives have serious concerns about how the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and its affiliates account for \$363+ million in government funding, and given the concerns raised about the amount of public funding and accountability of the two South Carolina affiliates, this is grounds for an audit of the affiliates operating in South Carolina.

Thank you for your attention to this request for an investigation to document the amount of public funding allocated to the two Planned Parenthood affiliates in South Carolina and whether the affiliates comply with billing and reporting guidelines.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Garry R. Smith.

Garry R. Smith



House of Representatives

State of South Carolina

Donna C. Hicks

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July 30, 2015

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Committees:

Judiciary
General and Family Laws

The Honorable Wm. Weston J. Newton, Chairman
House Legislative Oversight Committee
P.O. Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29221

Dear Chairman Newton:

Recently in the news we have heard disturbing reports about Planned Parenthood selling aborted baby body parts. In light of the apparent personal admittance from Planned Parenthood employees through video records I am requesting an investigation be opened in South Carolina.

I have recently communicated with the two top law enforcement officials in South Carolina, each of whom shares the concerns over Planned Parenthood's activities in the state. Each of the individuals I've spoken with has pledged to bring the resources of their offices to bear should any inappropriate or illegal activity be discovered.

I believe the South Carolina House should also employ its resources to assure that state law is being faithfully followed. I would request that your committee begin an investigation into compliance by abortion providers who receive any tax revenue through the State of South Carolina or any of its political subdivisions.

Recently the Legislative Audit Council (LAC) conducted a review of DHEC (Department of Health and Environmental Control) related to compliance with state law and regulations by abortion service providers and found several areas of concern that if not addressed could result in serious problems for patients.

The LAC discovered that DHEC had failed to properly regulate the three abortion clinics operating in South Carolina in the following regard:

1. DHEC could not confirm that all abortions had been reported as required by law.
2. Documentation was missing for required reviews to determine compliance with the law.

3. Reviews filed didn't include a statistical representation of the number of abortions performed, 6 patient files reviewed out of 1,887 abortions performed.

Based on the May 2015 LAC report and the current allegations against the Planned Parenthood organization, I believe an oversight investigation into Planned Parenthood and all other organizations or their affiliates that receive public support of any variety is necessary and due.

This review should include, at a minimum, each of the clinics operated or supported by Planned Parenthood, their affiliates or other related entities.

Given the urgency and serious nature of the information that continues to become public concerning the business practices of Planned Parenthood and given sensitivity and far reaching implications that any finding of misconduct might create, I would ask that the committee begin its review as quickly as possible..

I'm available to answer any questions and to assist your members or staff in regard to this review.

Sincerely,



Rep. Donna C. Hicks



Rep. Greg Delleney, Jr.



Rep. Craig A. Gagnon



Rep. Anne J. Thayer



Rep. Doug Brannon

Cc: The Honorable Jay Lucas
Speaker of the SC House of Representatives

The Honorable Alan Wilson
Attorney General

Chief Mark A. Keel
SC Law Enforcement Division