



July 17, 2015

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

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Texas Conservative Coalition (TCC) is deeply concerned by the revelation that Planned Parenthood has been harvesting and possibly selling the body parts of aborted children. This abhorrent practice confirms that Texas made the correct decision to defund Planned Parenthood. Now we must take steps to ensure that the organization is not breaking or abusing any laws. We applaud and support your decision to launch an immediate investigation into its activities.

That Planned Parenthood supports late-term abortions and other reprehensible acts is no secret, but the recent video filmed by the Center for Medical Progress sheds light on just how callously the organization operates. In the video, Planned Parenthood's Senior Director of Medical Research, Deborah Nucatola, is seen discussing the method of "crushing" a fetus in order to keep desired internal organs intact for harvesting. She explains that Planned Parenthood has "been very good at getting heart, lung, liver, because we know that, so I'm not gonna crush that part, I'm gonna basically crush below, I'm gonna crush above, and I'm gonna see if I can get it all intact."

The video raises questions about whether or not Planned Parenthood is violating federal law which prohibits the buying and selling of human fetal tissue in the United States, or from altering the timing or method of an abortion for the sole purpose of later using the

tissue for research. Even if, as Planned Parenthood claims, that the sole purpose of harvesting fetal tissue is for donations to medical research, there are legitimate ethical and health related concerns raised by altering an abortion procedure in a way that places preservation of fetal organs ahead of performing the procedure in the safest way possible. We have enacted legislation to ensure that abortions in Texas must be carried out with the utmost care and attention paid to the quality of care provided so that the life of the mother is not put in jeopardy. Planned Parenthood—a symbol of “choice” and “women’s health”—should know better than to perform abortions in any way that does not comport with state laws.

TCC strongly supports your decision to direct the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to conduct an immediate investigation into Planned Parenthood’s activities. We are available to assist in any way we can and we are prepared to pursue legislative remedies if necessary.

Sincerely,



Senator Paul Bettencourt



Senator Brian Birdwell



Senator Donna Campbell



Senator Craig Estes



Senator Bob Hall



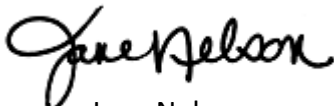
Senator Kelly Hancock



Senator Don Huffines



Senator Lois Kolkhorst



Senator Jane Nelson



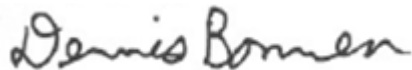
Senator Charles Schwertner



Senator Larry Taylor




Representative Rodney Anderson



Representative Dennis Bonnen



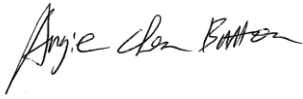
Representative Greg Bonnen



Representative Cindy Burkett



Representative Dustin R. Burrows



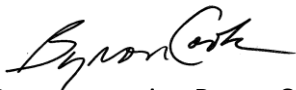
Representative Angie Chen Button



Representative Giovanni Capriglione



Representative Travis Clardy



Representative Byron Cook



Representative Myra Crownover



Representative Tony Dale



Representative Gary Elkins



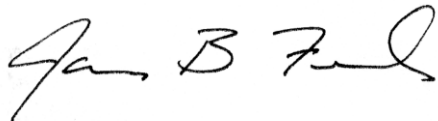
Representative Wayne Faircloth



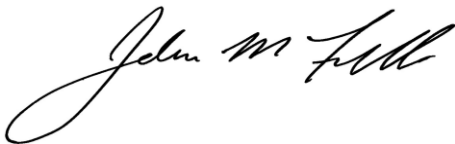
Representative Pat Fallon




Representative Dan Flynn



Representative James Frank



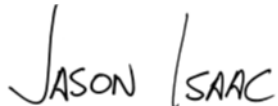
Representative John M. Frullo



Representative Craig Goldman



Representative Patricia Harless



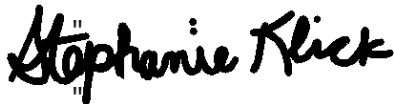
Representative Jason Isaac



Representative Phil King



Representative Susan King



Representative Stephanie Klick



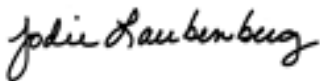
Representative Linda Koop



Representative Matt Krause



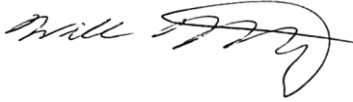
Representative Brooks Landgraf



Representative Jodie Laubenberg



Representative Jeff Leach



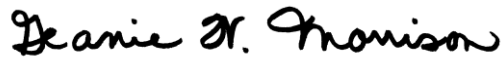
Representative Will Metcalf



Representative Morgan Meyer



Representative Rick Miller



Representative Geanie Morrison



Representative Jim Murphy



Representative Tan Parker



Representative Dennis Paul



Representative Matt Rinaldi



Representative Matt Schaefer



Representative Mike Schofield



Representative Matt Shaheen



Representative Kenneth Sheets



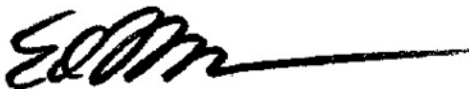
Representative Ron Simmons



Representative Stuart Spitzer



Representative Drew Springer



Representative Ed Thompson

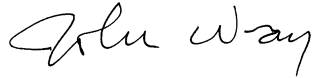


Representative James White





Representative Paul Workman



Representative John Wray