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July 28, 2015

Dear All Members of the General Assembly:

On July 13, 2015 and July 20, 2015, the Center for Medical Progress released two undercover investigation videos much like the style used by 60 Minutes. The investigative journalists posed as a biotech start-up company that was interested in partnering with Planned Parenthood to collect fetal baby parts following an abortion.¹ The footage captured revealed Planned Parenthood senior executives making extremely troubling and morally offensive statements that Planned Parenthood may be selling aborted fetal body parts including lungs, hearts, livers, extremities, and heads. As noted in point four of this letter, Illinois was specifically discussed in the first video as a “fabulous” place to obtain harvested fetal body parts.

There are four key points you need to be aware of.

1. The first investigative video released on July 13, 2015, shows Dr. Deborah Nucatola, senior medical services director for Planned Parenthood, making statements that Planned Parenthood affiliates, may make a profit on the sale of harvested fetal body parts.

“I think for affiliates, at the end of the day, they’re a non-profit, they just don’t want to—they want to break even. And if they can do a little better than break even, and do so in a way that seems reasonable, they’re happy to do that,” said Dr. Nucatola, senior medical services director for Planned Parenthood.²

Throughout the two and a half hour unedited footage, Dr. Deborah Nucatola repeatedly contradicts herself by stating clinics wish to do “better than break even” off of the sale of fetal body parts while also stating Planned Parenthood does not wish to profit off of the sale.³

Dr. Nucatola discusses with the potential buyers a price range of \$30 - \$100 per specimen:

“You know, I would throw a number out, I would say it’s probably anywhere from \$30 to \$100 [per specimen], depending on the facility and what’s involved.”⁴

In the video, Dr. Nucatola explains the process of harvesting fetal organs during an abortion:

¹<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjxwVuozMnU>

² Ibid.

³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4UjIM9B9KQ>

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjxwVuozMnU>

“We’ve 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.”⁵

2. A Stem Express brochure used to advertise contracts with Planned Parenthood clinics to harvest fetal body parts states four times that working with Stem Express is “financially profitable” for the clinic. Planned Parenthood endorses this brochure.

The Center for Medical Progress released a brochure from Stem Express, a biotech corporation that contracts with Planned Parenthood affiliates to harvest aborted fetal body parts. On this advertisement is an endorsement from Dr. Dorothy Ferguson, of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte. Four times in this four-page brochure, Stem Express states it: “fiscally rewards clinics” is “contributing to the fiscal growth of your clinic,” is “financially profitable,” and is “providing a financial benefit to clinics.”⁶

3. A second undercover video released by the Center for Medical Progress shows a Planned Parenthood executive haggling over the potential price her clinic would be paid for harvesting baby parts. “I want a Lamborghini,” she added.

On July 21, 2015, the Center for Medical Progress journalists released a second undercover video of a meeting with Dr. Mary Gatter, president of Planned Parenthood Federation of America’s Medical Directors’ Council and Medical Director for Planned Parenthood Pasadena and San Gabriel Valley. In the video, Dr. Mary Gatter can be seen negotiating the price the buyer will pay for the fetal body parts:

“Well why don’t you start by telling me what you’re used to paying [for fetal body parts]. ... Well, you know in negotiations the person who throws out the figure first is at a loss, right? ... I don’t want to play games, I just don’t want to lowball, because I’m used to low things... Okay. \$75 a specimen. ... It’s been years since I talked about compensation, so let me just figure out what others are getting, if this is in the ballpark, it’s fine, if it’s still low then we can bump it up. I want a Lamborghini.”⁷

4. According to the Illinois Comptroller’s Office, Planned Parenthood received \$42 million in taxpayer money from the state of Illinois between 2011 and 2015.

Illinois received the following amounts from Illinois taxpayers:⁸

2015 - \$7,926,550.41	2014 - \$7,707,281.96	2013 - \$7,921,314.62
2012 - \$8,317,134.25	2011 - \$10,464,461.03	

⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjxwVuozMnU>

⁶ <http://www.centerformedicalprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/StemExpress-flyer.pdf>

⁷ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjCs_gvlmyw

⁸ Illinois Comptroller’s Office: www.IllinoisRightToLife.org/PlannedParenthood

Planned Parenthood currently receives \$1.4 million in federal taxpayer money per day.⁹

Dr. Deborah Nucatola told fetal organ buyers that Chicago was a “fabulous” place to obtain fetal body parts.

"There [Chicago] you have probably the best opportunity outside of UCSF to get those larger cases. But Cook County is fabulous, it's in the center of Chicago, two airports, plenty of opportunities there. ...The largest family planning provider in the Mid-West. Cook County hospital, Stroger Hospital.¹⁰"

The receiving or giving of human organs for profit is a federal felony (42 U.S. Code 274e) and violation of Illinois law (The Anatomical Gift Act 755 ILCS 50/5-50). As this letter shows, there is reasonable concern that Planned Parenthood may be operating in gross violation of federal and state law.

Regardless of the law, these videos show extremely troubling and disturbing behavior by Planned Parenthood executives that is morally reprehensible. The body parts of aborted children should **not** be harvested and sold.

The aborting of unborn fetuses and the selling of their body parts – lungs, livers, extremities, hearts, and heads - is morally reprehensible and does not deserve the hard-earned money of Illinoisans. In your continuing budget negotiations, any taxpayer money set aside for Planned Parenthood should be eliminated.

Thank you for your careful attention to this matter. All videos, transcripts, and other information detailed and footnoted in this letter can be viewed at www.IllinoisRightToLife.org/PlannedParenthod. Additional questions can be directed to me at 312-422-9300 or Emily@IllinoisRightToLife.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Emily Zender". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Emily" and last name "Zender" clearly distinguishable.

Emily Zender
Executive Director

⁹ http://issuu.com/actionfund/docs/annual_report_final_proof_12.16.14_/0 [page 23]

¹⁰ http://www.centerformedicalprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/PPFATranscript072514_final.pdf