State of South Carolina
Office of the Governor

NIKKI R. HALEY
GOVERNOR

1205 PENDLETON STREET
COLUMBIA 29201

August 18, 2015

Ms. Catherine Heigel
Director
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Director Heigel,

Over the past weeks, I have been shocked by recent accounts of unethical practices at clinics affiliated with Planned Parenthood, particularly those regarding the sale of human fetal tissue. These practices are not consistent with the laws or character of our state, and I believe this should make us pause and review Planned Parenthood's operations in South Carolina.

The issues raised about Planned Parenthood's standards and practices are further compounded following the findings of a South Carolina Legislative Audit Council (LAC) report issued this Spring. This report found that the frequency and rigor of abortion clinic inspections are lacking, and that discrepancies exist between records maintained by the clinics and those on-file with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SC DHEC). As the agency primarily responsible for regulation of abortion clinics, SC DHEC cannot allow an organization with broken internal oversight and a flawed corporate culture to behave the way Planned Parenthood has in other states.

Accordingly, I am requesting that you engage in a prompt and comprehensive investigation of the policies and practices of abortion clinics in our state, prioritizing those affiliated with or owned by Planned Parenthood, its subsidiaries, and its affiliates. As you do so, I also ask that you keep me apprised of your work and progress.

Thank you for all you do for the people of South Carolina. If I may be of assistance to you, please contact Joshua Baker in my office at joshbaker@gov.sc.gov or 803.734.5153. God bless.

My very best,

Nikki R. Haley

cc: Allen Amsler, Chairman, South Carolina Board of Health and Environmental Control