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21 April 2020

Honorable John Bel Edwards  
Governor of Louisiana  
PO Box 94004  
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

Governor Edwards,

I am writing to encourage you to take decisive action to enforce Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) order #2020-COVID-ALL-007 against abortion facilities who are blatantly disregarding your order by performing non-emergency elective abortions. I also ask that you direct both the LDH and the Louisiana State Board of Medical Examiners to hold both facilities and physicians accountable for their violations of your orders, as evidenced by the April 15, 2020, letter from LDH to Hope Medical Clinic.

The people of Louisiana are confused by your lack of enforcement on these measures. The majority of Louisianians and the medical facilities within have made tremendous sacrifices to meet the necessary demands of your orders regarding the fight against Covid-19. Yet abortion facilities remain fully open for business with a heavy patient load of non-emergency elective abortions with no clear action to hold them accountable.

According to LDH's April 15 letter to Hope Medical Clinic, Hope made a blanket determination that your order does not apply to their elective abortion business. This is unacceptable, and decisive action is necessary to protect the public safety and hold them accountable for their violations that no doubt increase the spread of Covid-19 as well as use up scarce PPE.

We understand that beginning April 27, your new health order, NOTICE #2020-COVID19-ALL-010, will go into effect. From what was gathered from Dr. Guidry's comments at your press conference on Monday, April 20, it appears that only "time-sensitive" abortions would be permitted by this order. Dr. Guidry defined these abortions as those approaching the legal limit and those in an emergency situation when the physical life of the mother is in jeopardy.

In 2019, 91% of Louisiana abortions occurred at the 12th week of gestation or earlier, far



before the legal limit of 22 weeks gestation. If the outpatient abortion facilities follow NOTICE #2020-COVID19-ALL-010, then it would result in a much smaller number of procedures being performed at these facilities. However, based on their current actions, we question their intention to abide by any order set forth by you and your Department of Health. We ask that under NOTICE #2020-COVID19-ALL-010, clear policy is issued for the operation of outpatient abortion facilities to ensure proper enforcement.

We understand the challenges your administration has faced in fighting Covid-19 and the difficulty in enforcing emergency orders statewide at the same time. These abortion facilities, content to follow their own rules, have caused the problem. However, it is incumbent on your administration to issue clear communication of policy to these facilities when presented with citizen concerns and clear action when presented with evidence of blatant disregard of state policy. Otherwise, the public health is threatened and precedent is established that facilities like these are above the law.

Thank you for your continued service to our state and your leadership during this pandemic.

For a Pro-Life Louisiana,



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