

March 23, 2020

The Honorable Alex Azar  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar,

As our country comes together to battle the threat of COVID-19 (coronavirus), Americans are heroically rising to the challenge of social distancing and helping the vulnerable. Aware of the importance not only of such practices as donating personal protective equipment to medical personnel, each of us is responding to the call to examine how we can lessen demands on our health care system for equipment and services needed by those who are ill or at increased risk. Recognizing that this number is already intolerably high and can rapidly surge, we are heeding calls and directives to come to the aid of others in this urgent situation.

Unfortunately, there is one clear outlier – the abortion industry including the largest abortion chain in the nation, Planned Parenthood. In acts of manifest fearmongering and self-interest, they are exploiting the anxiety of women and couples by continuing to promote abortion in communities across the country. Planned Parenthood is responsible for nearly 346,000 abortions in the last reporting year, including both surgical and medical procedures carried out in many locations all the way to 24 weeks of pregnancy. By ceasing both surgical and chemical abortions now, Planned Parenthood will free up much needed medical equipment and decrease the demand placed on ER's due to complications from both medical and surgical abortion. This will protect women who will, without doubt, need follow-up care, including infection treatment and transfusions, from the nation's emergency care centers and hospitals.

While we are in a hectic race to save lives, Planned Parenthood and other powers in the abortion industry remain insistent on taking the lives of innocent unborn children. While surgery centers postpone elective and diagnostic procedures, abortion centers are churning out surgical and chemical abortions and putting women, especially the poor, at risk. Their continued operation depletes sorely needed personal protective equipment and leads to complications that will further overwhelm already overextended emergency rooms.

On social media platforms, abortion activists are relentlessly insisting that dangerous chemical abortions be made more accessible, even going so far as to demand that FDA safeguards meant to protect women are temporarily suspended. At a time when hospitals are overloaded, the abortion industry is



putting women at risk of incomplete abortion, hemorrhage, and infection. Women undergoing chemical abortions are especially vulnerable, experiencing four times as many adverse events as women undergoing surgical abortions. As many as five to seven percent of all women obtaining chemical abortions will require surgical procedures.<sup>i</sup> Three percent could end up in the emergency room.<sup>ii</sup>

The abortion industry is compounding one crisis with another. Therefore, we urge public officials to use their broad emergency authority to safeguard against the extreme abortion agenda by:

- Ensuring that emergency response funds are not diverted to the abortion industry;
- Urging the abortion industry to cease operations and join other healthcare providers in donating their PPE and other equipment to coronavirus response;
- Ensure that telemedicine abortion is not expanded during the crisis and maintain FDA limits on dispensing of chemical abortion;
- Continue actions to stop illegal mail-order sale of chemical abortion; and
- Promote medically accurate and supportive information for women that counters the inaccurate and exploitative messaging coming from an abortion industry all too happy to use the current pandemic to scare women and families into abortion.

Americans are united in a spirit of mutual concern, hope, and solidarity to forge through this crisis and save every threatened human life. We write in full support of these measures and pray for policymakers, our heroic health care personnel, essential service workers, and our fellow Americans as we join to affirm life and keep our nation strong.

Sincerely,

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<sup>i</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19888037>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Mifepristone+in+South+Australia:+The+First+1343+Tablets>