

UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



STEVAN PEARCE
Second District, New Mexico

September 5, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Sessions
Secretary
United States Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Secretary Sessions:

On October 7, 2015, the United States House of Representatives passed H. Res. 461 in response to horrific videos that depicted the immoral procurement of fetal tissue by Planned Parenthood. The Resolution created the Select Panel on Infant Lives (Panel) chaired by Representative Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee. Charged with investigating the medical procedures related to abortions and the practices of institutions procuring fetal tissue, the Panel examined the relationship between the University of New Mexico Health Service Center (UNMHSC) and Southwestern Women's Options (SWWO).

On January 4, 2017, the Panel released their yearlong investigative report highlighting the illegal activity that occurred between UNMHSC and SWWO (attached). The evidence uncovered was enough for the Panel to make two criminal referrals to New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas. The criminal referrals are related to improper consent procedures as well as the violations of fetal procurement.

It has come to our attention that the statute of limitation is expiring on many of the cases involved in the Panel's report. While the New Mexico Attorney General's office has stated that "there is an ongoing investigation" on the actions between UNMHSC and SWWO, we fear the investigation is being stalled intentionally to allow the potential violations by these two entities to reach the statute of limitation.

On February 4, 2017, a woman tragically died at SWWO facilities after receiving a late-term abortion. This raises more questions about the reckless behavior of the SWWO. In 2016 alone, the National Abortion Federation reportedly referred more than 200 Texas patients to New Mexico for abortion related procedures. With hundreds of women flocking to New Mexico to receive these dangerous procedures, something must be done.

We formally request your office conduct an investigation on UNMHSC and SWWO practices related to the Panel's findings and the unfortunate tragedy mentioned above. We also ask that your office prosecutes, to the fullest extent of the law, any violations that are uncovered. It is entirely unacceptable for these institutions to continually violate 42 U.S. Code § 289g-2 as well

as other state and federal laws, especially in-light of the interstate commerce that is generated from these abortions and the research that is conducted with the subsequent fetal tissue.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Pearce". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "S".

Steve Pearce
Member of Congress