

March 24, 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>1</sup> Three percent could end up in the emergency room.<sup>2</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 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,

Marjorie Dannenfelser  
President  
Susan B. Anthony List

Carol Tobias  
President  
National Right to Life

Greg Schleppenbach  
Associate Director  
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Chuck Donovan  
President  
Charlotte Lozier Institute

Tony Perkins  
President  
Family Research Council

Penny Young Nance  
CEO and President  
Concerned Women for America LAC

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19888037>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=Mifepristone+in+South+Australia:+The+First+1343+Tablets>

Donna Harrison M.D.  
Executive Director  
American Association of Pro-Life  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Kristan Hawkins  
President  
Students for Life of America

Jeanne Mancini  
President  
March for Life

Jessica Anderson  
Vice President  
Heritage Action

Jordan Sekulow  
Executive Director  
American Center for Law and Justice

Shawn Carney  
CEO & President  
40 Days for Life

Thomas A. Glessner, J.D.  
President  
National Institute of Family and Life  
Advocates (NIFLA)

Judie Brown  
President  
American Life League

Dorinda C. Bordlee  
VP, Senior Counsel  
Bioethics Defense Fund

Samuel H. Lee  
Director  
Campaign Life Missouri

Roland C. Warren  
President & CEO  
Care Net

Fr. Frank Pavone  
National Director  
Priests for Life

Lila Rose  
Founder & President  
Live Action

Russell Moore  
President  
Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty  
Commission

Eunie Smith  
President  
Eagle Forum

Larry Cirignano  
DC Representative  
Children First Foundation

David Nammo  
Executive Director & CEO  
Christian Legal Society

Monica Migliorino Miller, Ph. D.  
Director  
Citizens for a Pro-Life Society

David Daleiden  
Project Lead  
Center for Medical Progress

Aaron Baer  
President  
Citizens for Community Values (Ohio)

Mary Hallan FioRito  
Cardinal Francis George Fellow  
Ethics and Public Policy Center and de  
Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture

Mark Harrington  
President  
Created Equal

James Nolan, Esq.  
President  
Crossroads Pro-Life

Dan Zeidler  
President  
Family Life Council, Inc. (Wisconsin)

Autumn Leva  
Vice President of Strategy  
Family Policy Alliance

Eva Andrade  
President  
Hawaii Family Forum

Brian Fisher  
President  
Human Coalition

Joe Langfeld  
Executive Director  
Human Life Alliance

Walter B. Hoye II  
President  
Issues4Life Foundation

Robert Cielnicki  
Director  
Life Amendment Coalition

Alexandra Snyder, Esq.  
Executive Director  
Life Legal Defense Foundation

Brendan O'Connell  
President  
Life Matters TV and Media Inc.

Steven Ertelt  
Editor  
Lifenews.com

John Helmberger  
Chief Executive Officer  
Minnesota Family Council

Connie Eller, MoFDC, BSSW  
Founder  
Missouri Blacks for Life

Tami L. Fitzgerald  
Executive Director  
NC Values Coalition

Michael Gonidakis  
President  
Ohio Right to Life

Cynthia Collins  
Global Advisor  
Operation Outcry

Troy Newman  
President  
Operation Rescue

Kelsey Hazzard  
President  
Secular Pro-Life

Bryan Kemper  
President  
Stand True Youth Pro-life Outreach

Jim Sedlak  
Founder  
STOPP International

Allan E. Parker, Jr.  
President  
The Justice Foundation

Bethany Bomberger  
Executive Director  
The Radiance Foundation

Tom Brejcha  
President and Chief Counsel  
Thomas More Society

Julaine K. Appling  
President  
Wisconsin Family Action