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## The Life Center Reveals Allegations of Sexual Harassment against South Bend Abortion Clinic

(South Bend – February 18, 2016) - This morning The Life Center (TLC) made available public documents reflecting allegations that employees of the Women’s Pavilion abortion clinic had harassed and/or sexually harassed the inspectors from the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH), thereby inhibiting investigations. ISDH nurses called to inspect the Women’s Pavilion were investigating claims filed by TLC. The claims by TLC related to criminal violations of the informed consent law. Accordingly, this morning, attorneys for TLC asked their local prosecutor to investigate the newfound claims of harassment and sexual harassment.

The attorneys for TLC found the allegations within subpoenaed documents from an Administrative Law proceeding between the ISDH and the Women’s Pavilion this past October 2015. The acts of sexual harassment, harassment and interference with ISDH investigations occurred this past June 2015, and possibly beforehand as well, during investigations of Women’s Pavilion by ISDH personnel. On June 3, 2015, ISDH was investigating the TLC claims that Women’s Pavilion was operating its abortion clinic without providing informed consent to its patients. The ISDH found 10 out of 10 violations during that investigation in June.

The allegations discovered by TLC’s attorneys demonstrate Women’s Pavilion’s attempts to suppress introduction of the harassment evidence. According to one of the documents, counsel for Women’s Pavilion objected that “counsel for ISDH indicated the ISDH intended to introduce testimony pertaining to certain harassment and/or sexual harassment allegations . . . .” Later in the same conference, in an attempt to block the clinic’s request for a continuance, ISDH changed its position and decided that it “would not attempt to introduce testimony pertaining to any alleged claims of harassment or sexual harassment.”

In an email sent the day following the conference (October 27, 2015), counsel for

ISDH, Adrienne Brune, described the significance of the harassment evidence:

“Past mistreatment of ISDH surveyors by Women’s Clinic personnel is relevant to the Clinic’s licensure and the State’s revocation/denial decision. Past mistreatment of surveyors is also relevant to the Clinic’s disregard for rules that bar an entity from interfering with surveyor activities.”

Shawn Sullivan, attorney for TLC, stated that this is just one more awkward twist in the Women’s Pavilion – ISDH saga. “Why isn’t the Women’s Pavilion being prosecuted for sexual harassment, harassment or interference with the government’s investigation? Why are the citizens of Indiana continually enduring this nonsense?” Attorney Sullivan, after studying the documents produced by the ISDH, thinks there is more here than meets the eye: “It would appear that the Women’s Pavilion plans to re-open soon and that they cut a deal with the ISDH to do so. Their 90-day suspension has expired, and the Women’s Pavilion staff has been coming in every day to operate the clinic.”

Attorney Sullivan has asked the prosecutor to investigate the harassment claims as well as a number of other admitted illegal activities and alleged violations of the law at Women’s Pavilion.

“The rap sheet for the Women’s Pavilion is embarrassing for residents of St. Joseph County. Going back to the inspections since 2006, the Women’s Pavilion has repeatedly violated clinic laws. Two failure-to-report criminal charges were brought against Dr. Klopfer, the clinic’s abortionist, within the past two years. Plus, the Medical License Board is threatening to revoke Dr. Klopfer’s license for violating informed consent laws, medical standards, and reporting requirements. And what should be the final nail in the coffin, TLC obtained testimonial and audio evidence proving that Women’s Pavilion operates in violation of the criminal laws regarding informed consent.”

Spokesperson for TLC, Jennifer Borek, points to the continuing attention the Women’s Pavilion is receiving by petitioners who desire to see the rule of law applied to the situation. “We now have over 850 signatures, electronic and handwritten, requesting that the enforcement bodies such as the ISDH, the prosecutor, and the Medical License Board, put an end to this charade.”

The reporting charges brought against Dr. Klopfer in Lake County and St. Joseph County have been dismissed based on pretrial diversion programs there. The abortionist, Dr. Klopfer, faces revocation of his license on March 24, 2016 when he appears before the Medical License Board.