

Faith Leaders Call On Governor To Close Abortion Clinics During COVID Emergency

By Administrator

Tuesday, 07 April 2020 09:53 -

A coalition of faith leaders across North Carolina requested Governor Cooper to include abortion centers in a directive issued by NC Health & Human Services Secretary Mandy Cohen. The directive requested hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers to suspend all elective and non-urgent procedures and surgeries.

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. However, there is one clear outlier – the abortion industry. "It is irresponsible and dangerous for abortionists to put patients at risk of contracting the virus and to consume masks, gloves and other personal protective equipment in short supply." according to Tami Fitzgerald Executive Director of NC Values Coalition.

"Today our state coalition joins with 50 national organizations calling for Health & Human Services Secretary Alex Azar to halt both surgical and chemical abortions in order to free up much needed medical equipment and decrease the demand placed on [emergency rooms] due to complications from both medical and surgical abortion," according to Fitzgerald. [Letter to Secretary Azar]

By ceasing both surgical and chemical abortions now, abortion providers 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 also will protect women who will, without doubt, need follow-up care, including infection treatment and transfusions, from North Carolina's emergency care centers and hospitals.

Background: Faith Leaders signing the Letter to Governor Cooper • Tami L. Fitzgerald, Executive Director of NC Values Coalition

- Jill S. Coward, State Director of Concerned Women for America of North Carolina
- Rev. Mark H. Creech, Executive Director of Christian Action League of North Carolina, Inc.
- John L. Rustin, President of North Carolina Family Policy Council
- Jason Williams, Executive Director of NC Faith and Freedom Coalition

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- Dr. Bill Pincus, President of NC Right to Life

Today's letter to Governor Cooper urged NC Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Cohen and the Governor to use their broad emergency authority to safeguard women and our healthcare providers by:

- Ensuring that emergency response funds are not diverted to the abortion industry.
- Directing the abortion industry to cease operations and join other healthcare providers who have ceased elective procedures due to a directive by Secretary Cohen asking hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers to suspend all elective and non-urgent procedures and surgeries. Abortion should not be allowed during this state of emergency unless there is a true medical emergency making "it is necessary to avert death" of the pregnant woman or "for which a delay will create serious risk of substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function."

N.C.G.S. 90-81.21(5)

- Urging abortion providers to donate their PPE and other equipment to coronavirus response.
- Ensuring that state law prohibiting abortions by telemedicine is enforced during the crisis and maintaining FDA limits requiring dispensing of chemical abortion medication in person by qualified licensed physicians. N.C.G.S. 90-21.82(1)(a)
- Promoting medically accurate and supportive information for women that counters the inaccurate and exploitative messaging coming from the abortion industry. N.C.G.S. 90-21.82