July 17, 2015

The Honorable Loretta Lynch
Attorney General
United States Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Lynch:

In a recently released video Planned Parenthood Federation of America’s Senior Director of Medical Services, Dr. Deborah Nucatola, describes actions taken during abortions to produce intact organs for fetal tissue brokers.

In the course of the conversation she references several actions that abortionists can take to produce the requested organs. These include using graspers to crush the unborn child above and below the thorax so that organs such as the liver, heart and lungs are not damaged.

However, she notes that an intact head is the hardest to deliver. To address this problem, she says “some people will actually try to change the presentation so it’s not vertex” (so the baby is breech instead of head first). She goes on to explain that “if you do it starting from the breech presentation, there’s dilation that happens as the case goes on, and often the last, you can evacuate an intact calvarium [head] at the end.”

When discussing the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban and how abortionists take the law into consideration, Nucatola goes on to say “the federal abortion ban is a law, and laws are up to interpretation. So there are some people who interpret it as intent. So if I say on Day One I do not intend to do this, what ultimately happens doesn’t matter. Because I didn’t intend to do this on Day One so I’m complying with the law.”

Both the references to the process of breech conversion and the interpretation of intent raise serious questions about whether abortionists and particularly abortionists in the Planned Parenthood organization are complying with the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act.

With this in mind, please provide a summary of all actions your Department has taken to ensure compliance with the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. Further, we urge you to act swiftly
to launch an investigation into any potential violations of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of which your Department has become aware, or does become aware, including potential violations by Planned Parenthood.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this request. Please have your staff respond to John Coleman at (202) 225-2825 no later than July 31, 2015.

Sincerely,

Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Committee on the Judiciary

Trent Franks
Chairman, House Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice

cc: John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on the Judiciary