

“[Whole Woman’s
Health of Beaumont]
failed to provide a
safe environment for
patients and staff.”

— 2013 report by the
Texas Department of
State Health Services



Ensuring women's safety

MCCL supports legislation to require that facilities performing 10 or more abortions per month be licensed by the state commissioner of health. The bill would apply existing licensing requirements for outpatient surgical centers to abortion facilities. The legislation also authorizes the commissioner of health to perform inspections of abortion facilities (no more than two times per year), with no prior notice required.

Abortion centers should be held to the same basic standards of patient care as other facilities that perform outpatient surgery. The health and safety of women depend on it.



Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

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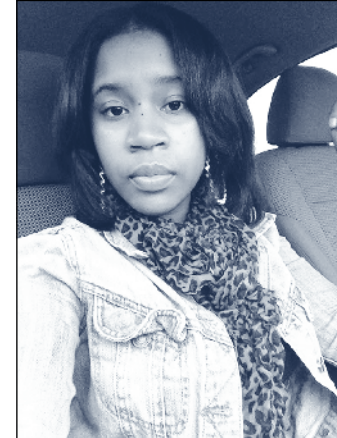
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The mission of MCCL is to secure protection for innocent human life from conception until natural death through effective education, legislation and political action.

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PROTECT
Women



Lakisha Wilson
died March 28,
2014, from abortion
complications

The importance
of licensing
and inspecting
Minnesota's
abortion centers

MINNESOTA CITIZENS CONCERNED FOR LIFE

Minnesota ought to ensure the safety of its citizens. That's why the state regulates facilities ranging from hotels and nursing homes to cosmetology salons and tattoo parlors.

Women entering abortion centers, where the vast majority of abortions occur, should not be excluded from such protection. **Yet abortion facilities in Minnesota are neither licensed nor inspected by any state agency.** Women deserve better.

The need for oversight

Here's why the state should license and inspect abortion centers:

- **Abortion is an invasive surgical procedure that inherently poses significant medical risks.** In 2013, abortion providers reported 65 abortion-related complications to the Minnesota Department of Health. They included cervical laceration, uterine perforation, hemorrhage, infection (requiring inpatient treatment) and incomplete abortion (requiring re-evacuation). Over the last five years for which data is available (2009-2013), a total of 540 complications from abortion were reported in Minnesota.
- **Unsafe abortion centers and unscrupulous abortionists have been discovered in numerous other states.** Some women have died. But our state lacks the ability to even determine if these dangerous conditions are present in Minnesota—or to prevent them from occurring in the future.
- **Abortion facility regulations are strongly supported by legal precedent.** As the U.S. Supreme Court noted in *Roe v. Wade*, "The state has a legitimate interest in seeing to it that abortion, like any other medical procedure, is performed under circumstances that ensure maximum safety for the patient."

Minnesota currently licenses outpatient surgical centers but *not* abortion centers—even though abortion facilities perform outpatient surgery. This exemption is unfair and dangerous. **We should require minimum health standards and ensure a degree of basic safety for everyone.**

ABORTION CENTER DANGERS:

Kermit Gosnell

Kermit Gosnell ran an abortion center in Philadelphia. He routinely delivered living babies and then killed them by jabbing surgical scissors into the back of their necks and severing their spinal cords. The conditions of his clinic were disgusting and unsanitary; patients were overdosed with drugs and treated by unlicensed staff, and at least two women died.

Gosnell's "house of horrors" was allowed to operate for many years because state officials chose—for political reasons—to not inspect abortion facilities or enforce regulations, according to the grand jury investigation. Gosnell was finally convicted and sentenced to life in prison in 2013.



Karnamaya Mongar died from anesthesia overdose at Gosnell's abortion facility in 2009

ABORTION CENTER DANGERS:

Whole Woman's Health

Whole Woman's Health (WWH) is a Texas-based chain of abortion centers that now operates an abortion facility in Minneapolis. **It has a consistent record of shoddy practice.**

In 2007, the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) fined WWH of Beaumont \$3,050 for five different violations. In 2011, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality fined WWH of Austin and WWH of McAllen \$40,410 for illegally disposing of the remains of aborted children. In 2012, the Texas Medical Board disciplined two WWH abortionists for violating standards of patient care.

An Oct. 3, 2013, inspection of the Beaumont clinic noted that "the facility failed to provide safe and sanitary equipment in the patients' procedure rooms." Inspectors found "numerous rusty spots on the suction machines used on the patient" that had "the likelihood to cause infection," according to the DSHS report.

Whole Woman's Health performed 3,039 abortions in Minnesota in 2013, making it the second largest abortion provider in our state.

Substandard abortion practices

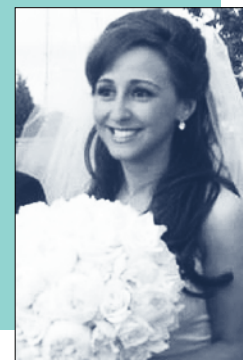
Laura Smith died in 2007 at a Massachusetts abortion center that

did not have the necessary equipment and did not follow the correct protocols; the abortionist, Rapin Osathanondh, was later convicted of manslaughter.



Tonya Reaves (right) died from a botched abortion in 2012 in Chicago; Planned Parenthood agreed to pay a substantial wrongful death settlement to her family.

Abortionist Steven Brigham has had his license suspended or revoked in several different states for gross negligence, law-breaking and other misconduct, including injuries to many women.



Jennifer McKenna-Morbelli died from a late-term abortion performed by LeRoy Carhart in 2013