



HR0205

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, On May 13, 2013, a jury in a Philadelphia Court of
3 Common Pleas convicted abortion provider Kermit Gosnell of 3
4 counts of first-degree murder in the deaths of infants born
5 alive following attempted abortions and one count of
6 involuntary manslaughter in the death of Karnamaya Mongar, a
7 patient who sought an abortion at Kermit Gosnell's abortion
8 clinic, the Women's Medical Society in West Philadelphia; and

9 WHEREAS, On May 13, 2013, a jury in a Philadelphia Court of
10 Common Pleas also convicted Kermit Gosnell of 21 counts of
11 performing illegal late-term abortions and 210 counts of
12 violating Pennsylvania's Abortion Control Act which, among
13 other requirements, mandates a 24-hour reflection period
14 before an abortion may be performed; and

15 WHEREAS, The report of the Grand Jury in the Court of
16 Common Pleas, First Judicial District of Pennsylvania,
17 Criminal Trial Division, certified on January 14, 2011, begins,
18 "This case is about a doctor who killed babies and endangered
19 women. What we mean is that he regularly and illegally
20 delivered live, viable babies in the third trimester of
21 pregnancy-and then murdered these newborns by severing their
22 spinal cords with scissors. The medical practice by which he
23 carried out this business was a filthy fraud in which he

1 overdosed his patients with dangerous drugs, spread venereal
2 disease among them with infected instruments, perforated their
3 wombs and bowels-and, on at least two occasions, caused their
4 deaths."; and

5 WHEREAS, The report of the Grand Jury detailed findings of
6 dangerous and unsanitary conditions in the Women's Medical
7 Society: "The clinic reeked of animal urine, courtesy of the
8 cats that were allowed to roam (and defecate) freely. Furniture
9 and blankets were stained with blood. Instruments were not
10 properly sterilized. Disposable medical supplies were not
11 disposed of; they were reused, over and over again. Medical
12 equipment-such as the defibrillator, the EKG, the pulse
13 oximeter, the blood pressure cuff-was generally broken; even
14 when it worked, it wasn't used. The emergency exit was
15 padlocked shut. And scattered throughout, in cabinets, in the
16 basement, in a freezer, in jars and bags and plastic jugs, were
17 fetal remains. It was a baby charnel house."; and

18 WHEREAS, The report of the Grand Jury described an
19 "inexcusable" and "complete regulatory collapse" by the
20 Pennsylvania Department of Health in inspecting,
21 investigating, and appropriately sanctioning Kermit Gosnell
22 and the Women's Medical Society; specifically, officials with
23 the Pennsylvania Department of Health failed to perform routine
24 inspections of the Women's Medical Society, refusing to inspect

1 the clinic for years and even decades at a time, and failed to
2 investigate specific and credible complaints against Kermit
3 Gosnell and the Women's Medical Society; and

4 WHEREAS, The report of the Grand Jury detailed repeated
5 complaints to the Pennsylvania Department of Health involving
6 Kermit Gosnell and the Women's Medical Society: "Several
7 different attorneys, representing women injured by Gosnell,
8 contacted the Department. A doctor from Children's Hospital of
9 Philadelphia hand-delivered a complaint, advising the
10 Department that numerous patients he had referred for abortions
11 came back from Gosnell with the same venereal disease. The
12 medical examiner of Delaware County informed the Department
13 that Gosnell had performed an illegal abortion on a 14-year-old
14 girl carrying a 30-week-old baby. And the Department received
15 official notice that a woman named Karnamaya Mongar had died at
16 Gosnell's hands. Yet not one of these alarm bells-not even Mrs.
17 Mongar's death-prompted the Department to look at Gosnell or
18 the Women's Medical Society"; and

19 WHEREAS, The problem of dangerous and substandard
20 conditions and practices at abortion clinics is not confined to
21 Pennsylvania but extends to other states around the nation
22 including Illinois; and

23 WHEREAS, In January 2012, the Associated Press and the

1 Chicago Tribune reported that "(a)n increased scrutiny of
2 Illinois abortion clinics in the wake of revelations about a
3 'house of horrors' in Philadelphia revealed that some
4 facilities had gone up to 15 years without inspections, and two
5 now have closed after regulators found health and safety
6 violations. The renewed oversight by state regulators led to
7 the permanent closure of a clinic in Rockford (in January
8 2012), following the closing of a clinic in suburban Chicago
9 (in October 2011), according to documents obtained by The
10 Associated Press through a Freedom of Information Act request";
11 and

12 WHEREAS, In 2011, The Women's Aid Clinic in Lincolnwood was
13 inspected by the Illinois Department of Public Health; the
14 clinic failed inspection and was fined \$36,000 for a multitude
15 of violations by the State; the most egregious violation was
16 for the clinic to fail in performing CPR on a patient who died
17 following a procedure, the owner of the Women's Aid Clinic
18 refused to pay the \$36,000 fine to the State and instead
19 forfeited its license; and

20 WHEREAS, The abortion clinic in Lincolnwood is not the only
21 clinic to have a major violation upon a Department of Public
22 Health inspection; and

23 WHEREAS, In 2012, the Northern Illinois Women's Center in

1 Rockford was inspected by the Illinois Department of Public
2 Health which found numerous health and safety violations; these
3 violation include, 3 of 3 operation rooms failed to ensure a
4 sanitary environment, failure to prevent contamination of
5 clean surgical equipment, gynecological cannulas were stained
6 with a brown substance, shoes stored inside an open box of
7 surgical gloves, autoclave equipment used to sterilize medical
8 instruments failed biological testing on at least 2 occasions,
9 and failure to meet legal requirement for a qualified
10 registered nurse to be present in the operation room during
11 procedures; and

12 WHEREAS, The violations at the Northern Illinois Women's
13 Center in Rockford were so severe the clinic announced it was
14 closing its doors and would not be re-opening, this clinic had
15 been in operation for over 40 years; and

16 WHEREAS, On July 20, 2012, Tonya Reaves, a 24-year-old
17 mother of a one-year old son, entered an abortion clinic at 18
18 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago; she was 16-weeks pregnant and,
19 at 11 am that that morning, she underwent a dilation and
20 evacuation ("D&E") abortion, an abortion procedure often
21 performed in the second trimester which involves significantly
22 more risk to the woman than earlier term abortions; while in
23 recovery, Ms. Reaves suffered significant bleeding and, more
24 than 5 hours after her abortion, she was finally rushed by

1 ambulance to Northwestern Memorial Hospital; at Northwestern,
2 doctors performed an ultrasound and discovered an incomplete
3 abortion; in response, they performed a second ("D&E")
4 procedure; however, Ms. Reaves continued to suffer pain and
5 other complications; a second ultrasound was then performed and
6 doctors learned that Ms. Reaves had suffered a "perforation";
7 she was taken into surgery where "an uncontrollable bleed" was
8 discovered; an emergency hysterectomy was performed, but Ms.
9 Reaves died at 11:20 pm; and

10 WHEREAS, An autopsy report released in early September 2012
11 confirmed that Ms. Reaves suffered from an incomplete abortion
12 and that pieces of placenta were still attached to the inside
13 of her uterus even after the second D&E procedure was performed
14 at Northwestern; had a 3/16 inch perforation in her uterus near
15 impression marks that appeared to have been made by forceps,
16 instruments typically used during a D&E abortion; suffered an
17 "extensive" perforation of her broad uterine ligament with the
18 possible severing of her left uterine artery; and had one to
19 one-and-a-half liters of blood and blood clots inside her
20 abdominal cavity indicating that Ms. Reaves had bled about 30
21 percent of her total volume of blood into her abdomen following
22 her abortion at the Michigan Avenue abortion clinic; therefore,
23 be it

24 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE

1 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
2 the Illinois House of Representatives extends its condolences
3 to the families of the victims of Kermit Gosnell and to the
4 family of Tonya Reaves; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the Illinois House of Representatives
6 condemns the criminal actions of Kermit Gosnell, the dangerous
7 and substandard conditions at the Women's Medical Society in
8 West Philadelphia, and the inexcusable dereliction of duty by
9 the Pennsylvania Department of Health and other state officials
10 in failing to properly inspect, investigate, and sanction
11 Kermit Gosnell and the Women's Medical Society and to
12 appropriately inspect other abortion clinics in the State of
13 Pennsylvania; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Illinois House of Representatives urges
15 the Illinois Department of Public Health to pursue a regime of
16 regular inspections of Illinois "pregnancy termination
17 specialty centers" (abortion clinics) to ensure compliance
18 with Illinois law governing those centers or clinics,
19 specifically 77 Ill. Adm. Code 205.710, to ensure that centers
20 or clinics failing to meet legally required and medically
21 appropriate standards for patient care are either closed or
22 comply, within an agreed upon time, with an approved plan to
23 correct deficiencies, and to properly respond to and
24 investigate complaints and other credible allegations it

1 receives concerning conditions and conduct at these centers or
2 clinics; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the Illinois House of Representatives urges
4 the Illinois Department of Public Health to ensure that the
5 provisions and intent of 1 U.S.C. 8 and Illinois' complementary
6 statute, 5 ILCS 70/1.36, are properly enforced and respected
7 and that "pregnancy termination specialty centers" (abortion
8 clinics) are complying with these laws.