July 16, 2015

Attorney General Maura Healey
One Ashburton Place, 20th Floor
Boston, MA 02108

Re: Investigation into Sale of Fetal Tissue

Dear Attorney General Healey:

Recently, on July 14, the Center for Medical Progress released a video showing the senior director of medical services of Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) discussing the demand for and transfer of fetal tissue of aborted babies. She talked of specific body parts such as livers, lungs, “intact hearts,”, and “lower extremities.” She also discussed the sale price of fetal body parts. The video can be viewed at www.washington post.com.

The transcript of the entire conversation can be read at: http://www.centerformedicalprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/PPFATranscript072514_final.pdf. Of significance in regard to Massachusetts, the transcript (p. 17) shows that the PPFA director, when discussing the PPFA affiliates’ involvement and the marketing of fetal tissue, specifically stated that Massachusetts was “huge” and had “a very developed research program.”

Massachusetts General Law Ch. 112, Sec. 12J prohibits, except in very limited circumstances, knowingly selling, transferring, distributing or giving away of any fetus. This law also prohibits the performance of an abortion where part or all of the consideration for said performance is that the fetal remains may be used for experimentation or other kind of research or study. Violation of this statute is punishable by imprisonment in a jail or house of correction for not less than one year nor more than two and one-half years or by imprisonment in the state prison for not more than five years and by the imposition of a fine of up to ten thousand dollars.
Based on these circumstances, I request that your office conduct an immediate investigation to determine whether PPFA affiliates in Massachusetts may have violated the law.

Very truly yours,

[Signature]

Representative James J. Lyons, Jr.