

**END
THE
LIES**

FAKE WOMEN'S HEALTH CENTERS

Anti-choice fake health centers, sometimes called "crisis pregnancy centers" or CPCs, draw women in with misleading references to abortion care and then feed them anti-choice propaganda. They often masquerade as real clinics by taking on similar names and addresses, and they push medical misinformation to scare or shame women out of choosing abortion.

Past research has demonstrated the incredible lengths these centers go to in order to stop women from accessing abortion care. Though many of these centers lack medical staff, they often work to — in their own words — "look medical" to appear authoritative and gain trust. At the same time, they have been repeatedly shown to promote false or misleading information as medical fact in their attempts to manipulate women's decisions. Some anti-choice centers mislead women about the status of their pregnancies to delay their decisions until it is too late to access abortion. Some convince women to sign documents that block them from later deciding on abortion.

Though these centers claim to offer women valuable medical services at no cost, their actual offerings are often deliberately limited in scope so that the centers can avoid scrutiny or legal liability. Because they are not medical clinics, many of these fake health centers do not have to comply with HIPAA patient privacy regulations.

These fake health centers also serve as the physical infrastructure for the anti-choice movement's broader misinformation and intimidation campaigns and often partner with anti-choice protesters who harass women outside of clinics. Clinic protesters work to redirect women away from legitimate, full-service clinics and toward nearby fake health centers or to their own fake health center buses parked outside legitimate clinics. Protest groups and fake health centers often share personnel or funding sources, and protesters sometimes use allied centers as organizing or meeting space.

Despite their deceptive practices, many of these anti-choice centers are taxpayer-funded. Fake health center leaders have increasingly gained stature within the conservative movement, influencing policy and giving their centers new opportunities to foist misinformation on women.

FAKE HEALTH CENTERS

Fake Health Centers Often Use False And Misleading Advertising And The Offer Of Free Pregnancy Tests To Lure Women Into Their Offices. Their goal is to stop women from accessing abortion care. To do that, many fake health centers intentionally misinform and mislead women seeking pregnancy-related information. Some of these centers force women to watch anti-choice films, view slideshows and photographs, and hear biased lectures. The centers will not refer women to an abortion provider — and some may refuse even to provide information about or referrals for birth control. These practices block women from making fully informed choices about their reproductive health and may endanger women’s health by delaying access to legitimate health care services. [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

Anti-Choice Pioneer Robert Pearson Argued That Fake Health Centers Have No Responsibility To Disclose That They Are Not Full-Service Women’s Health Clinics. Catholic homebuilder Robert Pearson opened the first fake health center in Hawaii in 1967 and then founded the Missouri-based Pearson Foundation to train others to open their own centers based on his model. Pearson contended it wasn’t his job to tell women that these centers don’t offer medical care: “We’re just not saying what we don’t do. ... A car dealer, when he’s advertising, does not list the things his auto won’t do. So why should we say we don’t do abortions?” [The New York Times, [1/23/87](#); Crisis Pregnancy Center Watch, accessed [11/27/17](#), via Mother Jones]

Pearson’s Original Fake Health Center Manual “Has Been Described By Law-Enforcement Officials Around The Country As A 93-Page Guidebook Of Ways To Mislead Consumers.” According to The New York Times, Pearson’s foundation offered “training sessions, slide shows, pamphlets, discounted video equipment and kits to perform urine tests and a manual entitled ‘How to Start and Operate Your Own Pro-Life Outreach Crisis Pregnancy Center.’” From The Times:

“The manual urges local operators to use ‘neutral advertising,’ to seek listings in the Yellow Pages telephone directory alongside abortion clinics and to adopt ‘dual names,’ one to ‘draw abortion-bound women’ and one to attract donations from people against abortion.

Referring to the centers’ pregnancy tests, the same sort available at a drugstore, the manual suggests: ‘Tell her it’s a refined form of the old rabbit test. This usually satisfies them. At no time do you need to tell them what you’re doing.’

Of telephone calls from people asking for abortion services, the manual says, ‘Remember there is nothing wrong or dishonest if you don’t want to answer a question that may reveal your pro-life position by changing the caller’s train of thought by asking a question in return.’” [The New York Times, [1/23/87](#)]

Today, Most Fake Health Centers Are Supported By One Of Three Major Umbrella Organizations: National Institute Of Family And Life Advocates (NIFLA), Care Net And Heartbeat International.

Founded in 1971, Heartbeat International was the first large fake health center network, offering resources to Christians who seek to establish their own local fake health centers. The group was originally known as Alternatives to Abortion. Heartbeat International says it has helped found or support about 2,000 centers worldwide. According to its website, “Heartbeat International does not promote birth control (devices or medications) for family planning, population control, or health issues, including disease prevention.” [Heartbeat International, accessed [11/27/17](#)]

Care Net is a sister organization of Heartbeat International. Originally known as the Christian Action Council, it was founded in 1975 by evangelical leaders who were aligned with Heartbeat International but wanted to require their centers to make a stronger statement of evangelical faith. [Heartbeat International, accessed [11/27/17](#); Care Net, accessed [12/29/17](#)]

National Institute of Family and Life Advocates (NIFLA) was founded in 1993 by attorney Thomas Glessner with support from pro-life leaders. It says it operates more than 1,430 centers across the country. [National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, accessed [1/4/18](#)]

FAKE HEALTH CENTERS ARE A CORE ORGANIZING FORCE WITHIN THE ANTI-CHOICE MOVEMENT

Americans United For Life's Jeanneane Maxon On Fake Health Centers: "They're Really The Darlings Of The Pro-Life Movement." She specifically highlighted their approach, which she described as "ground level, one-on-one, reaching-the-woman-where-she's-at." [The New York Times, [1/4/13](#)]

National Anti-Choice Leaders Serve On Fake Health Center Boards. Penny Nance, president of Concerned Women for America, has served on the Virginia board of Bethany Christian Services, a national fake health center umbrella organization. Americans United for Life President Catherine Glenn Foster serves on the board of directors of Rockville Pregnancy Center. Foster is also on the advisory board for Stanton Healthcare, a "life-affirming" organization that says it provides health care services to women but does not offer contraception or abortion care. [Politico, accessed [10/30/17](#); NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia Foundation, [2013](#); Americans United for Life, accessed [5/9/17](#); Cosmopolitan, [6/15/16](#)]

FAKE HEALTH CENTERS MASQUERADE AS REAL ABORTION CLINICS TO TARGET WOMEN CONSIDERING ABORTION

Anti-Choice Activist Abby Johnson In A Fake Health Center Training: "The Best Client You Ever Get Is One That Thinks They're Walking Into An Abortion Clinic." In a recording released by Vice News, Johnson counseled: "Women that are seeking abortions, women that are pregnant, that are vulnerable, they are going into Google and they are typing 'pregnancy symptoms.' There's a way in Google where you can basically set that search to your website. ... We want to look professional, ... businesslike. And, yeah, we do kind of want to look medical. The best client you ever get is one that thinks they're walking into an abortion clinic." [Vice News, [9/17/14](#), via YouTube]

Fake Health Centers Use Misleading Names To Sound Like Abortion Clinics. NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia "identified [fake health centers] with the names 'AAA Women for Choice', 'A Woman's Choice', 'Emergency Pregnancy Services', and 'First Choice', all misleading to an individual seeking abortion services." [NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia Foundation, [2013](#)]

Centers Choose Locations Near Abortion Clinics In Order To Deceive Women Into Coming To Their Clinics Instead. Fake health centers locate nearby full-service women's health clinics and assume similar names to trick women seeking abortion care into walking through their doors instead. [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

An Anti-Choice Group Purchased A Closed Abortion Clinic In Virginia And Used It To Deceive Women Into Coming To Its Fake Health Center. AAA Women for Choice, a fake health center, was located next to Amethyst Health Center for Women for decades — "same brick building, same sign, same generic office decor" — in order to trick women

seeking abortions at the clinic to enter the fake health center instead. When Amethyst closed, the fake health center's owner purchased the former abortion clinic. The Washington Post wrote, "Nothing indicates that the abortion clinic is closed except a locked door. The clinic's Google ads still pop up, and the phone number still works. When women dial the closed abortion clinic, the call is forwarded straight to the pregnancy center. Everything remains in place to lure women to the clinic and hope they try the door, figure they made a mistake, then go right next door to the carefully named AAA Women for Choice." NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia told The Washington Post that this was the first time it had seen a fake health center buy an abortion clinic. In 2017, another fake health center in Maryland planned to buy a closed abortion clinic. [The Washington Post, [2/4/16](#); The Washington Post, [8/25/17](#)]

Rewire: "In Duluth, Minnesota, a [fake health center] called Women's Care Center built a new clinic directly across the street from Women's Health Center, the sole abortion provider in northern Minnesota. The center's director, who also runs the '40 Days for Life' campaign, whose participants picket the Women's Health Center every year, said the [fake health center] needed to be 'immediately proximate to the Women's Health Center' to be effective at giving 'previously abortion-minded young women [the opportunity to] choose life for their precious babies.'" [Rewire, [5/20/13](#)]

Broadly: "Hartford Women's Center, which opened its doors for the first time this month, is the newest St. Gerard's location. It's a mere 30 feet from Hartford GYN Center, in the same office complex, with nearly identical signage. This is very confusing, and intentionally so." [Broadly, [5/30/17](#)]

Heartbeat International Runs Option Line, A Phone Line That Counsels Women Against Abortion And Steers Them To Fake Health Centers. One of the most potent tools fake health centers have at their disposal is Option Line, a Heartbeat International program that operates as a 24-hour call center and web tool referring women to the nearest fake health center. During its first month in operation, Option Line received approximately 2,000 calls and since then has added instant messaging and email capabilities to its arsenal. Its operators boast that the service answers more than 600 contacts a day, and Option Line claims more than 2 million contacts since 2003. [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#); Heartbeat International, accessed [1/4/18](#)]

The Option Line Handbook Tells Volunteers That "While [They] Are On The Phone, [Their] Objective Is To Schedule An Appointment" So That Women Will Come To The Center. Misled by fake health center ads, some women call these centers to inquire about available reproductive health services and prices. When presented with such inquiries, the centers' staffers often evade the question or lie outright in order to convince woman to come to their center. Advocates for these centers have been very explicit that the goal of these phone conversations is not to answer questions but rather to lure women to their centers. [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

An Anti-Choice Hotline Training Advised Fake Health Center Volunteers On Ways To "Hook Her Right Away." In a documentary about fake health centers called "12th & Delaware," a fake health center director trains volunteers in the telephone script she uses to deflect questions from potential clients and lure them to the center: "If you don't hook her right away, she hangs up on you. When she calls and she says, 'Do you do abortions?' I say, 'Are you calling for yourself or are you calling for your friend?' ... and we engage in conversation. Because if she calls and says, 'Do you do abortions?' and I say, 'No,' click. [Pantomimes hanging up the phone.] I'm trying to get her in the door. Take control of the conversation. ... I don't mind the criticisms of taking control. 'That doesn't sound fair.' Well, too bad!" [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

Fake Health Centers Advertise Under Headings That Falsely Imply They Provide Full Reproductive Health Services, Including Abortion. NARAL Pro-Choice America found that "a web search revealed that many [fake health centers] listed by Option Line advertised under headings that could lead women to believe that they provide the full range of reproductive-health services, including abortion care and contraception." NARAL also found, "Some [fake health centers] list themselves in phone books or online directories under the headings 'abortion,' 'abortion alternatives,' 'abortion services,' 'family planning information centers,' or 'women's organizations' to appear as though they offer abortion care or counseling, even though the only 'abortion service' they provide is anti-abortion coercion." [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

Fake Health Center Group Human Coalition Uses Search Engine Optimization And Online Advertising To Direct Women Seeking Abortions To Its Centers Instead Of Full-Service Women’s Health Clinics. Human Coalition uses search engine optimization to ensure that women searching for legal abortion services on sites such as Google found Human Coalition instead, which directed the women to anti-choice centers where the women could not receive abortions. [Live Action News, [4/12/16](#); The Washington Times, [3/22/17](#)]

Human Coalition Founder Brian Fisher Admitted That Women Seeking Abortions Do Not “Voluntarily” Go To Its Centers. Fisher said, “The abortion-determined woman will not walk into the pregnancy center voluntarily. They must be outreached to and found and brought into a system of care. The reason is they don’t want to go to a place that won’t offer them an abortion. They want to go to a place that is going to offer them an abortion.” [The Washington Times, [3/22/17](#)]

Heartbeat International Helps Fake Health Centers Draw Women In Through Deceptive Online Advertising. Heartbeat International promotes a program called Extend Web Services, which it says “was formed with the goal of giving your pregnancy help organization the most effective, professional Web presence to reach the woman who’s looking for help.” The group promises fake health centers that the program “allows centers to compete online with abortion providers” through “search-friendly optimizations,” geographically targeted ads and other strategies. For Extend Web Services, the ability to help fake health centers mislead women seeking abortion is a key selling point. Its website says, “We are experts at making sure your website is attracting the abortion-minded client and representing your center in a way that will make your clients feel comfortable with the service they will receive.” [Heartbeat International, accessed [11/27/17](#); Extend Web Services, accessed [12/19/17](#); Extend Web Services, accessed [12/19/17](#); NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#); Extend Web Services, accessed [12/19/17](#)]

CENTERS EMPLOY SCARE TACTICS AND PEDDLE MEDICAL MISINFORMATION TO STOP WOMEN FROM CHOOSING ABORTION

Centers Provide “False And Misleading Information About A Link Between Abortion And Breast Cancer.” In 2006, Rep. Henry Waxman commissioned a report investigating fake health centers receiving federal funding. An investigator talked to 23 centers on the phone, posing as a 17-year-old trying to decide if she should get an abortion. Despite the medical consensus that there is no connection between abortion and breast cancer, many centers told women calling for information that having an abortion increased their risk of breast cancer. One clinic even claimed abortion could increase the risk of breast cancer by up to 80%. Other centers falsely claimed abortions influenced the development of breast tissue and could “affect the milk forming in your breasts.” [False and Misleading Health Information Provided by Federally Funded Pregnancy Resource Centers, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform, [July 2006](#)]

NARAL Pro-Choice Montana Found That Fake Health Center ZoeCare Lied About Abortion To Patients And Only Provided Information On The Risks Of Abortion. After visiting ZoeCare undercover, a NARAL Pro-Choice Montana “secret shopper” stated, “The only information given was on the risks of abortion. The nurse ... talked about abortion potentially causing breast cancer due to the increase in HCG [human chorionic gonadotropin]. The other risk focused on was cervix incompetence. She ... illustrated on the diagram how it [the cervix] could become ‘too stretched out’ and that could lead to later miscarriages and potentially lead to not being able to have children in the future.” [NARAL Pro-Choice Montana Foundation, [2013](#)]

REALITY: The National Cancer Institute (NCI) Has Clearly Stated That “Induced Abortion Is Not Associated With An Increase In Breast Cancer Risk.” NCI noted that this determination is “well established,” the institute’s highest rating. [Guttmacher Institute, [10/23/06](#)]

Centers Falsely Claim That Abortion Causes Future Infertility. Centers contacted through the 2006 congressional investigation claimed that “a lot of women” were unable to have children after having an abortion. Centers told callers it was “common” for women to become infertile, have “many miscarriages” or be unable to carry a pregnancy to term because of “permanent damage” caused by abortions. Centers claimed abortion could make it so a woman’s cervix “won’t stay closed in future pregnancies.” However, first trimester abortions “do not pose an increased risk for future fertility.” [False and Misleading Health Information Provided by Federally Funded Pregnancy Resource Centers, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform, [July 2006](#)]

REALITY: “Abortions Performed In The First Trimester Pose Virtually No Long-Term Risk Of Problems Such As Infertility, Ectopic Pregnancy, Spontaneous Abortion (Miscarriage) Or Birth Defect.” [Guttmacher Institute, accessed [12/19/17](#)]

Centers Tell Women That Abortion Leads To “Severe, Long-Lasting, And Common” Psychological Effects, Including Increased Suicide Rates. Despite the “considerable scientific consensus that having an abortion rarely causes significant psychological harm,” centers contacted through the 2006 congressional investigation promoted the claim that abortions “frequently” lead to “severe long-term emotional harm” called “post-abortion syndrome.” One center falsely said that, after having abortions, women experience symptoms “much like” those seen in soldiers returning from Vietnam and that they are “something that anyone who’s had an abortion is sure to suffer from.” Another center claimed abortions lead to “guilt, numbness, dreams and nightmares, changes in relationships, ... difficulty with making friends, sexual problems, preoccupation with abortion date or due date, ... sadness, anxiety, suicidal ideas, sedatives, alcohol, drug use, eating disorders, sense of loss, inability to relax, fear of failure, crying spells, regret, anger, helplessness, headaches, loneliness, panic, ... signs of marital stress.” One center claimed women face emotional distress after abortions because a woman having an abortion “is doing something totally contrary to what her role is,” while giving birth “is fulfilling one of the roles that she has.” [False and Misleading Health Information Provided by Federally Funded Pregnancy Resource Centers, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform, [July 2006](#)]

REALITY: “Leading Experts Have Concluded That Among Women Who Have An Unplanned Pregnancy, The Risk Of Mental Health Problems Is No Greater If They Have A Single First-Trimester Abortion Than If They Carry The Pregnancy To Term.” [Guttmacher Institute, accessed [12/19/17](#)]

Centers Provide False Information About Birth Control And Condoms. Montana fake health center Echoz claims that “all morning-after pills, including ella, can cause abortions.” NARAL Pro-Choice Montana reported that Echoz also made false claims about condoms, spermicides, birth control pills and abortion risks. NARAL Pro-Choice Montana cited brochures from Echoz claiming birth control pills and the NuvaRing caused abortions. One stated, “Birth control pills can and do kill little human beings,” and the other said the NuvaRing “has the potential to abort your baby — without you ever knowing it.” Echoz also falsely claimed condoms and spermicides “could be harmful to you,” and counseled, “Chastity is the best choice for single people.” [Echoz Pregnancy Care Center, accessed [4/10/17](#); Echoz Pregnancy Care Center, accessed [4/10/17](#); NARAL Pro-Choice Montana Foundation, [2013](#)]

REALITY: “The Weight Of The Evidence Clearly Shows That Emergency Contraceptives And IUDs Are Not Abortifacients.” As Guttmacher Institute notes, “The campaign to conflate contraception with abortion is based on the assertion that certain methods of contraception actually end — rather than prevent — pregnancy. That assertion, however, contradicts what science says about how pregnancies are established and how contraceptives work.” According to “the most up-to-date evidence about how hormonal and copper IUDs and the emergency contraceptives Plan B and ella work ... none have been shown to disrupt an existing pregnancy — meaning that none can accurately be called an abortifacient.” [Guttmacher Institute, [12/9/14](#)]

Centers Offer “Abortion Pill Reversal,” A Procedure With No Scientific Backing. Despite a complete lack of scientific evidence supporting the procedure, fake health centers advertise abortion reversal on their websites and Facebook pages. A 2017 investigation by Rewire identified “about 25 physicians and about 20 so-called [fake health centers] that claim to offer

this service.” In describing medication abortions, Montana fake health center Echoz says on its website, “If you change your mind after the first visit, please contact us and we will connect you with a network of doctors who can reverse the effects of Mifepristone in some cases.” [Rewire, [3/21/17](#); Facebook, [8/9/14](#); Echoz Pregnancy Care Center, accessed [4/10/17](#)]

The Pioneer Of “Abortion Reversal,” George Delgado, Is On The Medical Advisory Council Of Heartbeat International. [Heartbeat International Annual Report 2016, accessed [11/27/17](#)]

REALITY: Guttmacher Institute Says There Is No Evidence Supporting The Possibility Of Abortion Reversal. Salon has also reported that abortion reversal is a “lie” and “impossible.” [Guttmacher Institute, [January 2017](#); Salon, [2/23/17](#)]

NARAL Pro-Choice Montana Found That Centers Provided “Graphic And Extreme And Anecdotal” Information About Abortion. After an undercover visit to St. Catherine’s Pregnancy Resource Center, a fake health center, a NARAL Pro-Choice Montana “secret shopper” reported, “[When I asked about abortion], their responses were graphic and extreme and anecdotal. The younger volunteer shared horror stories from women she knew who took RU486, the ‘abortion pill.’ One of the stories ended with a blood clot and death. They explained the risks of surgical abortion to be cervix incompetence and breast cancer. They said that people are getting misinformation ... and are not being told the extreme risks involved. I asked if they had studies on this information, and their response was, ‘Oh, somewhere around here, yes.’ They didn’t pull out these studies, but instead dug out plenty of information on adoption services and went digging for graphic abortion videos.” [NARAL Pro-Choice Montana Foundation, [2013](#)]

REALITY: “A First-Trimester Abortion Is One Of The Safest Medical Procedures,” According To Guttmacher. In fact, abortion is much safer than carrying a pregnancy to term. Reuters has reported, “Researchers found that women were about 14 times more likely to die during or after giving birth to a live baby than to die from complications of an abortion.” [Guttmacher Institute, [October 2017](#); Reuters, [1/23/12](#)]

CENTERS OFTEN LACK MEDICAL STAFF OR DELIBERATELY LIMIT THEIR MEDICAL OFFERINGS TO ESCAPE SCRUTINY AND LIABILITY

Anti-Choice Activist Abby Johnson At A Fake Health Center Training Session: “We Want To Look Professional, ... Businesslike. And, Yeah, We Do Kind Of Want To Look Medical.” [Vice News, [9/17/14](#), via YouTube]

But Many Centers “Have No Trained Medical Professionals” And Provide Inaccurate Information To Convince Women Not To Receive Abortions. For example, a center staffer told a woman that her IUD was “your baby” when it appeared on her ultrasound. [Salon, [3/18/15](#)]

A Fake Health Center In Virginia Failed To Report A Sexually Active 11-Year-Old To Authorities: “Oh No, We Don’t Do That. We’re Not Doctors, So We Don’t Have To.” Fake health center operator Pat Lohman said this about an 11-year-old who came into the center with her parents, who thought she was pregnant. [The Washington Post, [2/4/16](#)]

Fake Health Centers Increasingly Claim To Offer Medical Services. Although fake health centers are still largely unlicensed, many have developed in sophistication to such a degree that they now offer limited medical services. As of 2018, at least 1,100 of NIFLA-affiliated centers operated as medical clinics. In an effort to speed this process, other key organizations, including Heartbeat International and Focus on the Family, have offered guidelines and other resources to help fake health centers medicalize. Focus on the Family has donated ultrasound machines, books and funding to Care Net and to individual centers across the country. [Heartbeat International, accessed [12/20/17](#); Focus on the Family, Standards of Care, [2009](#); NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#); Focus on the Family 2014 Form 990, [4/15/16](#); Focus on the Family 2015 Form 990, [10/26/17](#); National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, [1/4/18](#)]

Volunteers Dishonestly Convince Women That A Sonogram At A Fake Health Center Will Help Them Get An Abortion. In a training video for fake health center phone volunteers offered by Heartbeat International, Pegi Deeter, director of operations at PDHC, a fake health center, says that the promise of a free sonogram is her primary tool for getting women in the door. She describes how she tells women that sonograms are necessary before an abortion. “I want to get into offering them our services,” she says. “If the conversation is still on abortion, then I want to offer them a free ultrasound: ‘One of the things you’re going to need before your abortion, you need to know exactly how far along you are. ... Different abortion procedures are done at different stages in your pregnancy. We would like to offer you a free ultrasound. This will help you make the best decision for you.’” [Heartbeat International, Abortion Minded Caller, accessed 12/20/17]

Fake Health Center Training Materials: “Typically, When [A Sonogram Is] Free, And They Believe They’re Going To Need That Information, Then They’re Open To Hearing More About Our Services.” The training continues, “We don’t, of course, tell them where they can get an abortion, but we tell them we have information that will help them make the best decision for them. And we do! [Laughs.]” [Heartbeat International, Abortion Minded Caller, accessed 12/20/17]

Meanwhile, Focus On The Family Advises Centers Not To Waste Resources On Women Who Plan To Continue Their Pregnancy: Sonograms Are For “Abortion-Minded” Women, “To Help Them In The Decision-Making Phase.” Focus on the Family’s medical guidelines note that for most small clinics, the purpose of offering sonogram services is to affect “decision-making” about abortion. It does not recommend that centers expend resources offering free sonograms to women who already plan to continue their pregnancies if resources are limited: “Services will be provided for abortion-minded and abortion-vulnerable women to help them in the decision-making phase of their pregnancy. The provision of ultrasound services to women who are not abortion-minded or abortion-vulnerable is at the discretion of the medical director.” [Focus on the Family, Standards of Care, [2009](#)]

Focus On The Family Recommends Clinics Avoid Liability By Avoiding Most Medical Services: “Women Who Go To These Clinics Should Be Referred To Other Physicians For Regular Prenatal Care.” It notes that “legal liability issues exist” if clinics offer “more comprehensive” sonogram services but fail to diagnose medical issues. To avoid this liability, it recommends offering “limited ultrasound scans,” which do not attempt to diagnose medical issues, and notes that women seeking real prenatal care “should be referred to other physicians.” From Focus on the Family:

“There is some discussion among those involved in Clinics as to the extent of sonographic services that should be offered to pregnant women. Some suggest that pregnancy medical clinics should offer only a limited sonogram (a term which itself is not well defined) and should not perform scans of adnexa (the tissues and organs surrounding the uterus) routinely. Their rationale is that women being scanned are generally asymptomatic, and therefore Clinic resources would be expended unnecessarily. More importantly, legal liability issues exist if the scan or interpretation of the scan of the fetus and pelvic anatomy does not detect an existing medical problem. Women who go to these Clinics should be referred to other physicians for regular prenatal care, and should be referred immediately if they present with symptoms.

On the other hand, some Clinics are striving to expand their medical care. Their objective is not only to diagnose

a viable intrauterine pregnancy and educate women who may be considering abortion, but also to provide a more comprehensive medical clinic, possibly involving complete prenatal care or help with adverse fetal diagnosis. In this case, the possibility of legal liability (and its implications for the Clinic) may not be as large as it might be with smaller Clinics, and comprehensive sonograms may be performed more routinely, provided personnel are well qualified and the medical director has provided orders to do so.

The level of sonographic services offered by a Clinic should be determined by the mission of the Clinic, and at the discretion and direction of the Clinic’s board and medical director. If the Clinic’s mission is to provide medically accurate information to at-risk women regarding their pregnancy, the best sonographic option might be to perform limited scans while referring to other physicians and clinics for prenatal care. If the Clinic’s mission is medically broader, the Clinic’s board and medical director might deem it appropriate for that Clinic to offer more comprehensive scanning, as medically indicated.” [Focus on the Family, Standards of Care, [2009](#)]

One Fake Health Center Intake Form Includes A Liability Waiver For “Any Errors In Diagnosis Based On The Pregnancy Test Or Ultrasound.” From an intake form from Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center, a NIFLA center in Louisiana:

I have read and understand the statements above. I request services related to pregnancy provided by Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center at no charge. Because I intentionally seek these services for my own benefit, I release Crossroads and its paid and volunteer staff from any and all liability arising out of or connected with this pregnancy, particularly with regard to any errors in diagnosis based on the pregnancy test or ultrasound.

Client’s Signature _____	Date _____
Consultant’s Signature _____	Date _____

[Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center, accessed [11/29/17](#); Crossroads Pregnancy Resource Center, accessed [11/30/17](#)]

Heartbeat International Advises Fake Health Center Volunteers To Artificially Delay Appointments Until The Point A Sonogram Would Have More Visual Impact. In the Heartbeat International training video, Deeter advises phone volunteers speaking to women who may be very early in their pregnancy on tactics to delay scheduling a free sonogram until they are at least seven or eight weeks along, when a heartbeat might be detected. Deeter describes how she would navigate a conversation with a woman who is very early in her pregnancy: “In our centers, we typically like the client to be seven or eight weeks before we offer the ultrasound. So I might say, ‘Would you like to schedule an appointment with the nurse at our center? Then she will be able to let you know when we can schedule your ultrasound.’” Another presenter replied, “That’s good, because you’re inviting her in to get information. ... And in a couple of weeks, you can offer that ultrasound, there’s still plenty of time, and that gives you the opportunity to build up a rapport with her, and trust.” [Heartbeat International, An Abortion Minded Caller, accessed [12/20/17](#); American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, accessed [11/30/17](#)]

Fake Health Center Leader: “Let’s Look For A Heartbeat To Influence Her Decision.” In the fake health center documentary “12th & Delaware,” a center director advises volunteers on ways to sway women. The film shows an ultrasound she performed for a young couple, during which she typed “Hi Daddy” across the screen. [HuffPost, [8/2/10](#)]

Since They Are Not Medical Clinics, Fake Health Centers Do Not Have To Comply With HIPAA Patient Privacy Regulations, Putting Patients’ Information At Risk. NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina wrote, “Most [fake health centers] do not disclose that they are not beholden to HIPAA. Some create their own privacy statements,” such as Hope Pregnancy Center, which states, “Since Hope offers all services free of charge, we have no need to communicate with any insurers, and HIPAA is inapplicable.” [NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina Foundation, [July 2017](#)]

FAKE HEALTH CENTERS PUSH WOMEN TO SIGN A FORM THAT BLOCKS THEM FROM LATER CHOOSING ABORTION

Fake Health Centers Fill Out Forms For Women Stating They Do Not Want An Abortion, Forcing Abortion Doctors To Refuse Care If The Woman Later Decides On Abortion. ExposeFakeClinics.com says, “Many [fake health centers] convince women to sign a contract that they will carry their pregnancy to term, and then send it — with all of their personal information, including Social Security number — to every abortion provider nearby to try to scare both patients and real health care providers into refusing women care.” [ExposeFakeClinics.com, accessed [11/29/17](#)]

Life Dynamics Offers A Free “Force Form” For Fake Health Centers Or Clinic Protesters To Fill Out For Women Stating That Any Abortion She Could Receive Would Be Legally Against Her Will. Life Dynamics provides many resources for fake health centers and anti-choice protesters. On its website, it says that protesters or staff at fake health centers “can help a woman who is being forced to have an abortion with the Life Dynamics Force Form. This FREE form, when used correctly, legally documents that any abortion done on the client, regardless of what she says at the clinic, would be against her will. Clinics know that if they receive this signed document and decide to do an abortion anyway, they could be faced with civil suits — and sometimes criminal charges. This form makes a client almost ‘radioactive’ to clinics in the area.” Life Dynamics asks users to agree to the following terms of use before downloading the form: “The form will not be given to the client for her to fill out but will, instead, be filled out by a counselor at the center. The client will be given a copy of the completed document after she has signed it. The counselor agrees to immediately begin making the notifications called for in the document.” [ForceForm.info, accessed [11/29/17](#); Life Dynamics, accessed [11/29/17](#)]

Mark Crutcher Of Life Dynamics Described Fake Health Centers And Anti-Choice Protesters Using “Force Forms” To Put Abortion Clinics At Legal Risk To Stop Them From Performing Abortions. In a Life Dynamics video, Crutcher says that fake health centers and anti-choice protesters “take this form, they fill it out, they get all the pertinent information on this girl and her statement. She signs the statement saying, ‘I’m not wanting this abortion, ... and here are all the legal ramifications for doing that.’ In some states you can even be charged with sexual assault for doing that. And so sometimes it’s criminal; usually it exposes them to a civil suit. And you send these to all the area abortion clinics, and they get ... either a fax or an email. And you follow up, make sure they got it. You talk [to] somebody at the abortion clinic, make sure they got the form. They’ve been put on notice now. They are taking an enormous risk if ... this girl is brought to the facility and they do an abortion on her. Their legal exposure here is through the roof, and they know it, and their attorney’s going to tell them that. So what we’re doing is we’re making this child more trouble than she’s worth. They’re going to get rid of her. That’s going to be the way they’re going to handle that.” The description of the video on YouTube targets fake health centers and protesters. [Life Dynamics, [12/11/13](#), via YouTube]

Operation Rescue’s Troy Newman Discussed Using A Force Form To Try To Stop An Abortion. In the same video, Newman says, “I just used that last week with a little girl up in Iowa that her parents were wanting to force her to get an abortion. We got those forms, we got it in her hands. And I’ve yet to find out the outcome.” Newman has appeared in many Life Dynamics videos, along with Janet Morana of Priests for Life and Kristan Hawkins of Students for Life. [Life Dynamics, [12/11/13](#), via YouTube; Life Dynamics, [2/23/12](#), via YouTube; Life Dynamics, [3/29/12](#), via YouTube; Life Dynamics, [6/11/12](#), via YouTube]

CENTERS DELIBERATELY MISLEAD WOMEN TO DELAY THEIR DECISIONS UNTIL IT'S TOO LATE FOR ABORTION

Centers Lie About Gestational Age To Delay Women Until Abortion Becomes Unavailable. Some fake health centers tell women they are earlier in their pregnancy than they actually are. By lying about the gestational age, the centers can cause women seeking abortion care to miss the window of opportunity when it is available. “12th & Delaware” documents one center’s use of the tactic: Upon visiting the legitimate reproductive health provider across the street from the center, a woman learns she is several weeks farther along in her pregnancy than the center’s ultrasound operator had told her. The health clinic director says it is not unusual for the fake health center to misinform women about the dates of their pregnancies in an effort to cause them to delay seeking care until it is too late to obtain an abortion. [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

Centers Discourage Women From Accessing Abortion By Claiming Pregnancies Are Likely To End Naturally. The website for ZoeCare states, “One out of every four or five pregnancies ends in a natural miscarriage.” St. Catherine Family Health Care Clinic & Pregnancy Resource Center says on its website, “Statistics show that approximately 1 in 5 pregnancies end in miscarriage. That’s important to know before you go through a procedure like abortion.” According to NARAL Pro-Choice Montana, fake health centers use such language “to insinuate that [a pregnant woman] might not have to consider abortion at all” in order to “get women through the doors.” [ZoeCare, accessed [1/4/18](#); NARAL Pro-Choice Montana Foundation, [2013](#); St. Catherine Health Care, accessed [4/4/17](#)]

FAKE HEALTH CENTERS WORK WITH ANTI-CHOICE PROTESTERS TO TRICK WOMEN INTO MISSING THEIR APPOINTMENTS AT LEGITIMATE CLINICS AND DELAY THEIR PROCEDURES

Anti-Choice Activists Use Mobile Fake Health Centers To Mislead Women About Care Options And Promote Unsubstantiated Treatments Not Recommended By Experts. Protesters at North Carolina’s busiest abortion clinic, A Preferred Women’s Health Center (APWHC), typically park RVs that serve as mobile fake health centers along the road leading to the clinic entrance, a move designed to confuse patients. These RVs try to pull patients away from the clinic by advertising services such as free ultrasounds and pregnancy testing. Cities4Life, one of the key organizations behind the protests, operates a bus that claims to offer “abortion pill reversal” services, a medically unsubstantiated procedure that the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists says is “not supported by the body of scientific evidence” and is “not recommended.”

[Instagram, [7/12/17](#); HuffPost, [12/4/16](#); American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, [2015](#); Guttmacher Institute, [May 2017](#)]

Mobile Fake Health Centers Lie To Women About Their Health And Pregnancies To Stop Them From Seeking Care. HuffPost reported that the mobile centers at APWHC have gone so far as to lie to women about their likely health outcomes: “Patients have been told that their pregnancy wasn’t “attached properly” and that they would miscarry, so they should cancel their [abortion] appointment,’ one volunteer clinic escort, who asked to remain anonymous, told HuffPost. ‘Another was told that her pregnancy was too far along for an abortion, and that she should cancel, too, even though it wasn’t.” [HuffPost, [12/4/16](#)]

Mobile Fake Health Center Workers Trick Women Into Missing Appointments. According to HuffPost, “Some clinic escorts have also said that [mobile fake health center] staff members have falsely offered to check women into their APWHC appointments — which causes the women to miss their appointments altogether and have to wait a week or so to reschedule.” In North Carolina, women have to receive an ultrasound and wait 72 hours before they can get an abortion, which is banned after 20 weeks except for the life or health of the woman. These prohibitions mean getting an abortion is time-sensitive and any delays to appointments threaten a woman’s ability to receive care. [HuffPost, [12/4/16](#); Guttmacher Institute, [July 2017](#); Motto, [12/6/16](#)]



Activists Have Delayed Women’s Abortions By Giving Them Food Or Water As They Enter A Clinic, Which Can Require Some Procedures To Be Postponed. The New York Times wrote of clinic protesters, “Others have caused women to unknowingly violate preoperative procedures by handing them water or food; if the woman eats or drinks shortly before the abortion, it must often be postponed.” [The New York Times, [7/30/14](#)]

Fake Health Centers Use Mobile Units To Go To Strategic Locations And Meet Target Demographics “Where They Are.” NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia reported that fake health centers “are beginning to explore the use of ‘mobile units’, portable vans that are able to travel to strategic locations and more directly target key demographics. In Virginia, [fake health center] mobile units are open about this strategy. As ‘A Best Choice Mobile Ultrasound and Pregnancy Resource Center’ explains: ‘We are the only mobile ultrasound and pregnancy resource center in the D.C. area. We hope to service approximately 15 colleges and universities in the Northern Virginia and D.C. areas by offering free pregnancy tests, limited ultrasound, and eventually, sexually transmitted disease testing within a 50-mile radius. If only 10% of women are walking into traditional [fake health centers,] we need to go where they are.’” [NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia Foundation, [2013](#)]

An Anti-Choice Protester Discussed The Value Of The Mobile Fake Health Center Unit In Providing A Private Place For Anti-Choice Activists To Convince Women Not To Seek Care At An Abortion Clinic. Cities4Life protester Jessica M. says, “God has been able to take [protesters] with Cities4Life and Monroe HELP unit, and he’s been able to just give us a place where we can share the Gospel. ... It’s a place for us to be with these women in private. We’re not standing on the sidewalks where they

can't open their hearts to us worrying about who's hearing, and they're able to just spend as much time as they need with us. It may be 30 minutes or it may be a couple hours, and it's just a wonderful relationship that we have." [Cities4Life, [2/23/16](#), via Vimeo]

A Protester Discussed The "Camaraderie" Between The Mobile Fake Health Center Staff And The Cities4Life Protesters, Referring To Them As "One Body, Working In Unison Together." In a Cities4Life video about HELP mobile fake health center unit, protester Celia J. identifies Patrick and Sherry as staffers at the center and says, "When I have Patrick there, when I have Sherry there, and the rest of our Cities4Life team, it is just this camaraderie that we share because we're standing in unity against the gates of hell. ... I love that it is not two ministries, but it's just one body. We might be two different members, but we are one body, working in unison together." The video shows Patrick driving the mobile center to the clinic and then protesting outside of the clinic. [Cities4Life, [2/23/16](#), via Vimeo]

A Protester Discussed How Using The Mobile Fake Health Center To Show Women Ultrasounds Made Anti-Choice Activists More Effective In Preventing Women From Getting Abortions. Cities4Life protester Celia J. says, "What I love about the ultrasound unit is that picture can do what I could never do. I could sit and talk till I'm blue in the face, I could give all the Scripture points, I could stand there and rehearse the Gospel to them, but when they see that image of the baby, they're instantly bonded and united with that child. That is their child that is growing inside of them. And I can try and conjure that up, and I can try and talk about that, but that image speaks a thousand words. So when that mommy sees that baby on that screen, it almost always causes them to just stop what they're doing and to rethink and to feel that bond as a mom with that child in their womb." In the same video, another woman describes her experience watching an abortion film at the fake health center with her pregnant daughter and how that helped steer her daughter away from getting an abortion. The video also shows a woman receiving an ultrasound at a fake health center and telling the story of how she ended up there while seeking an abortion. [Cities4Life, [2/23/16](#), via Vimeo]

FAKE HEALTH CENTERS PARTICULARLY TARGET YOUNG WOMEN AND MINORITY COMMUNITIES WITH THEIR DECEPTIVE ADVERTISING

Colorlines: Fake Health Center Leaders Have Been Driving A "Massive Marketing Campaign In Black Communities." A report from Colorlines exposed a plan by fake health centers to deliberately set up shop in predominantly black communities to target vulnerable women and deny them the reproductive care and honest information to which they have a right. From the report:

"Over the past four years, national anti-abortion strategists have designated 'urban' and 'underserved' women and babies as a priority for saving. In practice, these terms tend to be euphemisms for 'black' and, to a lesser extent,

'Latina.' ... Care Net and its allies have used this kind of material to drive a massive marketing campaign in black communities over the past three years. The campaign's most prominent platform has been a series of billboards that label black children as endangered species and declare black women's wombs "the most dangerous place" for their children. The first round appeared in Atlanta, to dovetail with Black History Month in 2010." [Colorlines, [5/2/13](#); NARAL Pro-Choice America, [3/9/15](#)]

NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina Found That Fake Health Centers "Overwhelmingly" Are Located In "Lower-Income Neighborhoods, Neighborhoods Of Color, Urban Centers, And Counties With Higher Than Average Rates Of Segregation."

[NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina Foundation, [July 2017](#)]

Fake Health Centers Use "Strategic Location Placements" To Target Women From Specific Demographics. According to NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia, fake health centers "increasingly target groups that are the most underserved by the current health-care system and are therefore most vulnerable to the misinformation [fake health centers] provide. These groups include women of color, young women, women living in rural locations, and low-income women. Through a variety of methods, including the offering of free services, strategic location placements and market-specific advertising, [fake health centers] work to attract women from specific demographics." [NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia Foundation, [2013](#)]

Fake Health Centers Also Target College Students Through Location, Affiliations And Advertising. ZoeCare targets college students by associating itself with Montana State University. Both are in Bozeman, Montana, four minutes apart by car. ZoeCare sponsors the T-shirt cannon used by the mascot at MSU sports games and posts the results of MSU games on its Facebook page. According to Facebook posts, ZoeCare closed for "spring break" in 2017 and "Christmas break" in 2016, indicating that its schedule is based around an academic calendar. A mobile fake health center in Virginia said it aimed to serve "15 colleges and universities in the Northern Virginia and D.C. areas" by offering its services near the schools. Advertisements in Virginia specifically reached out to college students, with one advertisement for Lifechoices Resource Center stating, "helping [George Mason University] students since 2005" and another fake health center offering coupons for free pregnancy tests to University of Virginia students. [Google Maps, accessed [4/4/17](#); Facebook, [12/21/16](#); Facebook, [3/9/17](#); Facebook, [9/15/16](#); Facebook, [9/19/16](#); NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia, [2013](#)]

FAKE HEALTH CENTERS' PRACTICES HAVE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES FOR WOMEN

A Clinic Investigator Recounted Her Experience At Fake Health Centers: "I Left Each [Fake Health Center] Feeling Humiliated, Terrified And Panicked." Caitlin Bancroft described her experience visiting several fake health centers as part of a NARAL investigation into their tactics. One visit began with a series of "personal and invasive" questions designed to help the center find the most effective persuasion tactics. The conversation was interspersed with "subtle judgments of my life decisions." For example: "So you do have some scruples about you," [the interviewer] said at one point, referring to my low number of sexual partners." Bancroft concluded: "The way that these women treated me made one thing very clear: they

didn't care about me, my future, my happiness, or my relationships. I was simply a shell that needed to be distracted and kept questioning until it was too late for me to make my own choices, and too late for me to decide if this is what I wanted — or not. I truly can't imagine the pain that [fake health centers] inflict on women who are actually struggling with an unintended pregnancy." [HuffPost, [8/15/13](#)]

A Man Described His Teenage Daughter's Experience At A Fake Health Center: "They Had An Ax To Grind And Just Terrorized Her." An Arizona man whose 16-year-old daughter had been raped took her to a fake health center, not realizing it was an anti-choice fake clinic. Center volunteers showed her "brutal footage," including pictures of dismembered fetuses, and "just emotionally raped her," the man said. "They are advocates for the unborn, and to hell with the troubled person. They had an ax to grind and just terrorized her." [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

After Hearing A Fake Health Center's False Claims Of The "Risks" Of Abortion, One Woman Resorted To Dangerous Measures To Induce Miscarriage. "12th & Delaware" tells the story of a young woman named Widline, who seeks care and ends up at a fake health center. After hearing a volunteer detail the supposed "risks" of abortion, Widline is frightened and decides against abortion. Instead, she attempts to self-induce an abortion, trying "everything in [her] powers," from drinking vinegar to lifting heavy objects. As NARAL has noted, these measures are not as extreme or as dangerous as some to which she might have resorted, but Widline was driven away from safe medical care because of the lies and coercive tactics of the fake health center. Later in the documentary, Widline is shown at seven months pregnant, regretfully preparing for motherhood. [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

A Woman Was Told She "Had The Devil Inside Her." In Milwaukee, a woman went to a fake health center to talk about her options. Instead, she was told she "had the devil inside her" and was "bombarded with graphic images of disfigured babies and aborted fetuses." [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

One Fake Health Center Pressured A Woman To Consider Continuing An Abusive Relationship, Saying, "For All You Know, The Baby Changes Him." In "12th & Delaware," a young mother of two tells a fake health center staffer she is considering abortion because her boyfriend is abusive and she needs to do what is best for her children. The staffer protests, arguing, "For all you know, the baby changes him." [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

REALITY: 95 Percent Of Women Who Have Had Abortions Say They Made The Right Decision. A 2015 study by researchers from the Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health at the University of California, San Francisco's School of Medicine tracked 667 women for a three-year period after their abortions. The study concluded, "The overwhelming majority of women felt that termination was the right decision for them over three years. Emotional support may be beneficial for women having abortions who report intended pregnancies or difficulty deciding." [PLOS ONE, [7/8/15](#)]

MANY FAKE HEALTH CENTERS ARE TAXPAYER-FUNDED

Government Funding Of Fake Health Centers Exploded Under The Bush Administration. According to a 2006 congressional investigation prepared for then-Rep. Henry Waxman, "Prior to the Bush Administration, only a few [fake health] centers received federal funding. Beginning in 2001, however, federal funding of [such] centers increased sharply. In total, over \$30 million in federal funds went to more than 50 [fake health] centers between 2001 through 2005." [False and Misleading Health Information Provided by Federally Funded Pregnancy Resource Centers, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform, [July 2006](#)]

Many States Are Directly Funding Fake Health Centers. Many anti-choice politicians have successfully introduced and passed bills that fund fake health centers directly with taxpayer dollars, either by allocating state funds or by redirecting federal funds for the state to the centers, and/or through favorable tax benefits. By directly funding these centers, the state not only is complicit in the deception of its own residents, but also bestows a level of legitimacy on these anti-choice clinics, creating the false impression the centers are part of the mainstream medical community. At least 14 states — Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin — fund fake health centers directly. [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

14 States Have “Choose Life” License-Plate Programs That Directly Fund Fake Health Centers. State legislatures also lend support to fake health centers by enacting legislation to fund them through the sale of anti-choice license plates. Some states funnel money from the sale of “Choose Life” license plates to fake health centers through specific anti-choice organizations, such as Arkansas Right to Life or Choose Life of Georgia Inc. Other states ensure fake health centers receive the money by allocating it to organizations that provide pregnancy services while prohibiting it from going to organizations that provide, refer or even counsel about abortion care. There are 14 states with anti-choice license-plate programs whose proceeds fund fake health centers. [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

21 States Require Health Care Providers To Refer Women To Fake Health Centers. In addition to pushing forced-ultrasound laws to give fake health centers a more convincing argument to bring women through their doors, anti-choice politicians are requiring legitimate health care providers to refer women to the centers. Provisions in many forced-ultrasound and biased-counseling laws require that states create and maintain registries of fake health centers and compel providers to present or offer such lists to women seeking abortion care. These laws clearly are designed as another way to direct women to a fake health center without their knowledge of its ideologically driven agenda. Twenty-one states have passed laws that force providers to refer women to the centers. [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

South Dakota Is Trying To Force Women To Go To Fake Health Centers For “Counseling.” In an especially alarming example of fake health centers making inroads with anti-choice lawmakers, in March 2011, South Dakota’s anti-choice Gov. Dennis Daugaard signed into law a first-of-its-kind mandate that a woman seeking abortion care first submit to an in-person lecture at a fake health center. In addition to “counseling,” the law also requires a 72-hour waiting period before care, forcing women to make three separate trips, which in a rural state such as South Dakota can be nearly impossible. The law has been challenged and is not in force, but this aggressive new tactic is another indicator that fake health center activists are on offense. [NARAL Pro-Choice America, [1/1/17](#)]

CASE STUDY

TEXAS' EXPERIMENT REPLACING REAL CLINICS WITH ANTI-CHOICE PREGNANCY CENTERS WAS A PUBLIC DISASTER

Texas Recently Slashed Family Planning Grants And Redirected Funding Away From Real Clinics Toward Fake Health Centers. Though state funding was already barred from covering abortion, clinics that offered family planning services such as contraception, cancer screenings, breast exams and other health services had previously received some help covering those costs. That changed with Texas' Healthy Texas Women program, which shifted funding away from full-service clinics that also offered abortion services toward anti-choice organizations that claimed they could cover the loss in health care services. The program included a \$1.6 million grant to anti-choice organization The Heidi Group, which had no experience providing medical services. The group claimed it could redirect the 50,000 patients who would lose health care access at the full-service clinics to fake health centers. [Dallas News, [3/17/17](#)]

Heidi Group President Carol Everett: "I Founded The Heidi Group To Follow My Heart For The Hurting By Supporting Pregnancy Resource Centers." Everett also said, "I now use my experiences and faith to help set girls and women free from abortion by connecting them with positive, life-affirming options. The Heidi Group partners with these women and their families to meet the needs of a crisis pregnancy with practical and scriptural solutions." [The Heidi Group, accessed [11/28/17](#)]

Despite Rebranding Her Fake Health Center Network As Offering "Minimum Health Services," Everett Told The Austin Chronicle That State Health Care Funds Would Flow To Fake Health Centers. [The Austin Chronicle, [8/23/17](#)]

The Associated Press: "Eight Months Later, The Heidi Group Has Little To Show For Its Work." An Associated Press report "found the nonprofit has done little of the outreach it promised, such as helping clinics promote their services on Facebook, or airing public service announcements. It hasn't made good on plans to establish a 1-800 number to help women find providers or ensure that all clinics have updated websites." [The Associated Press, [3/14/17](#)]

30,000 Women Lost Health Care After Texas' Decision To Cut Off Family Planning Funding For Full-Service Abortion Clinics. As The Associated Press reported, "After Texas state funding was cut off to abortion providers in 2011, 82 family planning clinics closed in the state, a third of which were Planned Parenthood affiliates. A state report later found that 30,000 fewer women were served through a Texas women's health program after the changes." [The Associated Press, [3/14/17](#)]

After The Funding Cuts To Legitimate Clinics, Texas Saw An Increase In The Teen Birth Rate And The Abortion Rate. A study by Miami University's Analisa Packham found that "the 67 percent decrease in funding [to family planning clinics] has resulted in an increase in the teen birth rate by 3.4 percent, or nearly 2,200 more teens giving birth," ThinkProgress reported. The year after the cuts went into effect, the state's abortion rate also increased 15 percent. [ThinkProgress, [7/17/17](#)]

CASE STUDY

SCOTT LLOYD'S CAMPAIGN TO BLOCK JANE DOE'S ABORTION SHOWS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S CLOSE TIES TO FAKE HEALTH CENTERS

For Weeks, Trump Appointee Scott Lloyd Was Instrumental In Blocking Jane Doe From Accessing Constitutionally Protected Abortion Care, And She Is Not The Only One. Seventeen-year-old “Jane Doe” fought for weeks to access abortion care, but was blocked by restrictions from Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement. As Slate reported, “In March, ORR announced that federally funded shelters could not take ‘any action that facilitates’ abortion for unaccompanied minors, including ‘scheduling appointments, transportation, or other arrangement,’ without ‘direction and approval’ from Scott Lloyd, the agency’s director. A Trump appointee and longtime anti-choice activist, Lloyd has refused to allow minors to access abortion services. Instead, he has directed shelters to take these women to [fake health centers] which ‘counsel’ them not to get abortions. At least once, Lloyd himself called a pregnant minor to talk her out of terminating her pregnancy. If a minor still wants to get an abortion after navigating these obstacles, ORR instructs its shelters to block her from attending her appointment.” [Slate, [10/19/17](#)]

Lloyd Served On The Board Of Directors Of Front Royal Pregnancy Center, A Fake Health Center. Front Royal Pregnancy Center is part of the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates network. NIFLA provides the centers “with legal counsel, education, and training.” [This Week In Immigration, [3/28/17](#); Breitbart, [4/4/17](#); NIFLA, accessed [10/18/17](#); NIFLA, accessed [10/18/17](#)]

NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia Found That Front Royal Pregnancy Center Provided A Pamphlet With Inaccurate, “Repeatedly Debunked” Information About Breast Cancer And Abortion. The pamphlet said, “New scientific evidence shows that the increase in abortions worldwide has caused a sharp increase in breast cancer. Over thirty-four studies indicate that women who abort their first pregnancy have a much higher risk of developing cancer. ... Dr. H. Olsson found, if she had aborted her first pregnancy, that the cancer was more aggressive, metastasized earlier and was lethal more quickly as compared to women who had completed their first pregnancy.” [NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia Foundation, [2013](#)]

Front Royal Pregnancy Center Promotes “Abortion Pill Reversal,” A Procedure With No Scientific Backing. Guttmacher Institute says there is no evidence supporting the possibility of abortion reversal. Salon has also reported that abortion reversal is a “lie” and “impossible.” [Front Royal Pregnancy Center, accessed [10/18/17](#); Guttmacher Institute, [January 2017](#); Salon, [2/23/17](#)]



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