



SENATE  
STATE OF DELAWARE  
LEGISLATIVE HALL  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903

\*\*\*\*\* For Immediate Release \*\*\*\*\*

## **Nurses Accuse Planned Parenthood of DE With Abusing Patients**

\*\*\*\*\*Contact: Bill Cook: 302-744-4161\*\*\*\*\*

Dover, DE – Democratic State Senator Robert Venables and Republican State Senator Gregory Lavelle have scheduled a bipartisan and bicameral ad hoc hearing on May 29 at 1 p.m. in the Senate Hearing Room at Legislative Hall in Dover, Delaware.

The purpose of the hearing is to investigate claims brought by nurses Jayne Wehrbrich, who has been formally declared a whistle-blower by the State of Delaware, and her former supervisor, Joyce Vasikonis.

Both women quit their jobs at Planned Parenthood because of the “meat-market style assembly-line abortions” they witnessed there. Since January, five ambulances have rushed patients from Planned Parenthood to the emergency room. Wehrbrich and Vasikonis have charged that Planned Parenthood:

- Placed patients in grave danger through poor care
- Assigned medical responsibilities to employees who had insufficient medical training
- Rushed through abortions at a speed that made patient safety unsustainable given the level of staff and expertise
- Hit patients in dilation
- Failed to report to patients that they had contracted sexually transmitted diseases
- Tolerated sexual harassment of employees
- Attempted to falsify employee records
- Drastically under-reported to the state of Delaware the number of abortions they performed
- Failed to provide standard medical policies and procedures guidelines to medical staff to protect patients



**SENATE  
STATE OF DELAWARE  
LEGISLATIVE HALL  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19903**

- Failed to comply with state parental notification laws
- Refused to reform unsafe medical practices when notified repeatedly by nurses

The nurses also accuse the state of Delaware of refusing to intervene to end these carefully documented abuses. Wehrbrich offers meticulous notes of dozens of contacts since June 2012 with state agencies charged with patient protection. Unfortunately, it was not until the nurses went to ABC News Philadelphia that the Planned Parenthood clinics were closed down.

Senator Venables said, “It seems that in the absence of any regulatory accountability system, a disturbing culture of malpractice and corruption has grown up in Delaware abortion clinics. Every abortion clinic in Delaware from Kermit Gosnell’s clinic to Planned Parenthood has shut down at least temporarily because of these conditions. This has to end.”

Senator Greg Lavelle said, “Abortion is a famously polarizing issue. But the poor women being exploited in this way are our neighbors. They are our constituents. And they are our friends.

“I urge anyone who has experienced abuse at the hands of Planned Parenthood of Delaware to contact my office. Your story should be told. You deserve compassion and justice.”

Ellen Barrosse, founder of A Rose and a Prayer, which is dedicated to working with all Delawareans to reduce the number of abortions here said, “Delaware has the highest abortion rate in the United States. But this is not just a statistic. If what these nurses say is true, real women—especially poor women—are being hurt as Delaware abortion providers provide sub-standard, third-world medical care, regardless of the human cost.

“It’s time for the state to stand up against entrenched interests to protect vulnerable women in crisis.”