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January 13, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing on behalf of Planned Parenthood of the Heartland (PPHeartland) which provides a wide range of reproductive health care services to women and men at two health centers in the state of Arkansas: in Little Rock and Fayetteville. Those services include medication abortion, which is an extremely safe method of terminating an early pregnancy using only prescription medications. Physicians licensed to practice medicine in Arkansas provide medication abortions to women who are no more than nine weeks pregnant in both Little Rock and Fayetteville.

However, as you may already be aware, the Arkansas General Assembly passed legislation in 2015 that imposes new, medically unnecessary requirements on medication abortion providers: Act 577, the Abortion-Inducing Drugs Safety Act. In particular, Act 577 requires that medication abortion providers have a contract with an Arkansas physician who has active admitting and gynecological/surgical privileges at a hospital in the state, and who agrees to handle complications despite that complications from a medication abortion are exceedingly rare. The law requires that this contracted physician's name, phone number, and

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the name of the hospital at which he or she has privileges be given to all medication abortion patients.

PPHeartland has already made numerous attempts to find a physician in the state willing to contract with it as required by the Act. To date, we have been unable to find such a physician.¹ We are reaching out to you requesting that you consider contracting with PPHeartland, as required by the Act. Please contact me as soon as possible if you are interested in serving as a contracting physician, or if you have any suggestions of another physician with the requisite admitting privileges who would be willing to do so.

I can be reached at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED].
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

/s/ Penny Dickey

Penny Dickey
Chief Clinical Officer

¹ The Act was set to go into effect on January 1, 2016. However, as a result of a lawsuit brought by PPHeartland, a federal court issued a temporary restraining order that blocks the law for now while it evaluates our challenge. If the court rules against us in the litigation, and we have to comply with the Act without having a contracted physician, we will be unable to provide medication abortions in the state, greatly burdening women seeking these services.
