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March 27, 2020

The Honorable Tom Wolf  
Governor of Pennsylvania  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dr. Rachel Levine, Pennsylvania Secretary of Health  
Pennsylvania Department of Health  
Health and Welfare Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor West  
625 Forster Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Wolf and Secretary Levine,

Citizens across Pennsylvania are requesting that you follow the example of neighboring states like Ohio and Maryland and halt elective abortions during this COVID-19 pandemic, consistent with your directive to hospitals and other surgical facilities.

In the list of "life-sustaining businesses" you have ordered that elective procedures at all health care providers are prohibited. However, the office of the Governor has subsequently told Pennsylvania citizens that abortion is a "life-saving service" and abortion clinics are permitted to remain open for elective abortions.

If we are concerned with stopping the spread of the coronavirus, the prohibition of elective surgical procedures should not come with exemptions. Mammogram centers are shutting down. Important surgical procedures are being postponed. Abortion is an elective procedure that should not be permitted at the peak of the coronavirus crisis.

There are doctors imploring that we halt elective surgeries not only to free up needed supplies and equipment but also to reduce the risk that patients could be exposed to the virus. Yet not only are abortion facilities like Planned Parenthood bringing in patients for elective abortions, risking further exposure and draining key medical supplies, but Planned Parenthood is actively requesting private donations of masks and surgical supplies to perform their elective abortion procedures, further misappropriating critical items in the fight against COVID-19.

With abortions there is always the risk that some women will have complications from the procedure that will need emergency hospital care, which will only further drain our overstretched health care system.

That is why we urge you to immediately prohibit all elective abortions, consistent with other elective surgical procedures, in order to safeguard the health and welfare of citizens in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania during this COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Geer".

Michael Geer  
President, Pennsylvania Family Institute