

Investigation of Planned Parenthood Federation of America Abortion Practices

Courtesy of the House Committees on Energy and Commerce, Judiciary, and Oversight and Government Reform

The committees, chairmen, and members, are resolved to conducting a thorough investigation into the practices behind these repulsive videos. The committees will continue to work together and use every possible tool, including letters, briefings, interviews, and potential hearings, to get to the facts and protect all lives.

What are the committees investigating?

1. Are abortion providers profiting from the sale of fetal tissue?
2. Are abortion providers changing procedures in order to maximize the harvesting of fetal tissue?
3. Are patients giving sufficient informed consent when fetal tissue is donated?
4. Were federal laws violated and whether federal law sufficiently prohibits these barbaric acts?
5. What congressional action is necessary to further respond to these horrific acts?
6. Was the Department of Justice aware of these practices and DID IT properly enforce the laws that prevent these acts?

What have the committees done?

Upon release of the first video, [Energy and Commerce](#) Committee leaders and the [House Judiciary Committee](#) released a statement on July 15, 2015, launching investigations within both Committees' jurisdictions.

On July 17, 2015, E&C committee members sent a [letter](#) to Cecile Richards, the president of PPFA requesting a briefing with Dr. Nucatola (the woman featured in the first video and the Senior Director of Medical Services at PPFA).

PPFA [responded](#) to the committee on July 20, 2015, signaling that it would likely not make Dr. Nucatola available for a briefing, but would instead make available Dr. Reagan McDonald-Mosley, the Chief Medical Officer of PPFA. They cite potential legal questions regarding Dr. Nucatola as the reason for not making her available.

The House Judiciary Committee on July 17, 2015, sent a [letter](#) to Attorney General Loretta Lynch demanding further investigation by the Department of Justice into potential violations of the *Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act* by Planned Parenthood.

HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell testified on July 28, 2015, at [the Education and the Workforce Committee](#) where she faced questions regarding the videos. This was the same day of the third video release. Burwell said she had not seen the videos and HHS would not be investigating them, she directed attention to the Justice Department. Committee members also [pressed](#) Burwell regarding her communication with PPFA since the release of the first video. Burwell indicated she had not had communication with PPFA in that time.

The Energy and Commerce Committee on August 7, 2015, sent [letters to PPFA, Advanced Bioscience Resources, Inc., Novogenix Laboratories, and StemExpress](#) requesting briefings and information regarding each organization's practices relating to human fetal tissue collection, sale, and/or donation.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform on August 14, 2015, sent letters to [HHS](#) and [PPFA](#) seeking information on the money PPFA receives from the government, PPFA employee salaries, and the services PPFA provides that are not otherwise available through other taxpayer-funded programs.

E&C last week received a briefing from Dr. Reagan McDonald-Mosley, the Chief Medical Officer of PPFA.

The House Judiciary Committee on August 17, 2015, sent a [letter](#) to the Department of Justice requesting information on the department's prior investigations into the trafficking of fetal body parts.

What are the next steps?

The committees will use every investigative tool possible to get to the facts behind these abhorrent videos and the questions raised by the content. That can include more letters and document requests, briefings, and potential hearings.

E&C is reviewing the information obtained in last week's briefing.

E&C will also speak with Dr. Nucatola, and is seeking to speak with other individuals from PPFA, Advanced Bioscience Resources, Inc., Novogenix Laboratories, and StemExpress as it continues to gather important information in helping to move the investigation forward.

The House Judiciary Committee will continue to probe the Department of Justice for answers on any possible violations of federal laws, and possible lapses in enforcement of laws already preventing the practices of Planned Parenthood.

The House Judiciary Committee anticipates holding a hearing upon the return of Members from the August work period on this important matter.

As videos continue to be released and briefings continue to occur, the committees will continue to evaluate what questions need to be asked and documents requested.

Topline Points

All life is sacred. Every human life is sacred and should be protected.

We will not turn a blind eye to this callous disregard for human life.

These videos raise important concerns because the very humanness of the babies make them valuable, yet their lives are not valued.

This investigation is about whether federal law has been violated and whether federal law sufficiently prohibits these disturbing acts.

Undercover videos of Planned Parenthood only bolster the need for the Senate to pass the [Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act](#).