



TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

CHRIS TRAYLOR  
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

February 19, 2016

*Via email to: csolomon@nejm.org*

Caren G. Solomon, M.D., M.P.H.  
New England Journal of Medicine, Deputy Editor  
10 Shattuck Street  
Boston, MA 02115-6094

Re: Removal of Unauthorized Affiliation and Attribution

Dear Dr. Solomon:

Thank you for your time last week. As we discussed, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission is concerned by the article recently published by the New England Journal of Medicine, titled "Effect of Removal of Planned Parenthood from the Texas Women's Health Program," which purports to be from the Commission. On the Commission's behalf, I am requesting the immediate removal from the article of any attribution to, or suggestion of an affiliation with, the Commission.

The article does not reflect the views of the Commission. Although Drs. Allgeyer and Flores-Vazquez undertook this work as Commission employees, the article was written and submitted for publication without the Commission's knowledge, review, or approval. For this reason alone, the article should not be represented to be "from" the Commission.

Further, the Commission would not have endorsed the opinions or conclusions in the article even had it been afforded the opportunity to review them. The article presents an incomplete picture of women's health services in Texas by ignoring the movement of clients to other state programs and focusing on only one contraceptive service. The article also includes incorrect statements concerning the birth rate and number of births in Texas.

I ask that the Journal immediately remove from the article all references to the Commission and include a disclaimer clarifying that any views expressed by Dr. Allgeyer or Dr. Flores-Vazquez are not shared by their employer. These changes are needed to ensure that readers do not mistake the opinions and conclusions in the article for determinations by the Commission, the state agency responsible for the coordination of health and human services, including women's health services, in Texas.

Dr. Caren Solomon

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I appreciate your attention and assistance with this matter. As we discussed, I am making the same request of Dr. Potter at the University of Texas. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Ray". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

Karen Ray  
Chief Counsel