



TEXAS HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION

CHRIS TRAYLOR
EXECUTIVE COMMISSIONER

February 19, 2016

Via email to: joe@prc.utexas.edu

Joseph E. Potter, Ph.D.
Population Research Center
The University of Texas at Austin
305 East 23rd St., Stop G1800
Austin, Texas 78712-1600

Re: Removal of Unauthorized Affiliation and Attribution

Dear Dr. Potter:

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 asking for your cooperation and assistance in removing from the article 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.

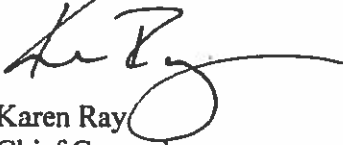
Further, the Commission would not have endorsed the opinions or conclusions in the article even had it been afforded the opportunity to review them. The article presents an incomplete picture of women's health services in Texas by ignoring the movement of clients to other state programs and focusing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

I ask that you remove references indicating that the article is "from" the Commission. In addition, I ask that you include a disclaimer clarifying that the views expressed in the article are those of the authors and do not represent the views of, and should not be attributed to, the Texas Health and Human Services Commission. These changes are needed to ensure that readers do not mistake the opinions and conclusions in the article for determinations by the Commission.

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I have made a similar request of the Journal and would appreciate your support in ensuring these changes are made immediately. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Ray', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Karen Ray
Chief Counsel