



## OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY  
GOVERNOR

March 8, 2012

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

RE: Women's Health Services

Dear Mr. President:

It is my understanding that the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has advised the Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) that it will soon deny Texas' request to renew the Women's Health Program (WHP) waiver.

The WHP is a cost-effective Texas solution that connects more than 100,000 low-income women to vital health and wellness services each year, and I will not allow these services to be denied by your administration's political agenda and opposition to enacted Texas law that prohibits abortion providers and their affiliates from receiving taxpayer dollars.

Your administration's attempt to violate states' rights under the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by mandating which health providers the State of Texas must use is nothing more than an effort to continue to financially support abortion providers like Planned Parenthood and their affiliates.

The federal government should not be in the business of protecting abortion providers at the expense of the health of Texas women. Texans send a substantial amount of our tax dollars to Washington, D.C., and it is unacceptable that your administration is denying Texas taxpayers the use of those dollars to fund this program simply because of your pro-abortion agenda.

Therefore, I have directed Thomas Suehs, Executive Commissioner of HHSC, to begin working with Texas legislative leaders to identify state funding to continue to provide these services, in full compliance with Texas law, should your administration make good on its threat to end health care to these 100,000-plus women. This directive is detailed in the enclosed letter.

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Texas intends to provide sufficient funding to continue these services from the time your administration terminates the current program until the courts or Congress overturn your administration's political decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RICK PERRY". The letters are bold and slightly slanted, with a cursive-like flow between the words.

Rick Perry  
Governor

RP:trp

Enclosure