

Virginia Conservative Caucus

Richmond, VA

September 14, 2011

Mr. Joseph Hilbert, Director of Governmental and Regulatory Affairs
Virginia Department of Health
P.O. Box 2448
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Mr. Hilbert:

The Conservative Caucus of the Virginia General Assembly would like to express our strong support for the clinic safety regulations drafted by the Department of Health. We urge the Board of Health to adopt these common sense, reasonable regulations.

Clinic regulations have been a priority of the Conservative Caucus for several years. It is our belief that Virginia's abortion clinics have operated without reasonable guidelines and supervision for far too long, needlessly endangering women who make the difficult decision to procure an abortion. The General Assembly sent a clear message by passing SB 924, legislation requiring the Board of Health to adopt regulations holding such clinics to reasonable health and safety standards.

This year, with the revelation that at least two abortion clinics in Virginia are owned and operated by individuals without a license to practice medicine in the Commonwealth and who are under investigation in other states for putting the lives of women at risk, we responded by passing this important legislation. After reviewing the regulations proposed by medical experts at the Department of Health, we are convinced that they will help to safeguard the health of women who in unfortunate circumstances choose to abort their unborn child.

Despite accusations by the abortion industry that the General Assembly "rushed" to pass this important legislation, we fully understand the complexities of the issue and have debated abortion center safety for nearly two decades. The Senate of Virginia debated the legislation over the course of two days and heard every plausible argument both for and against the bill. We were fully aware of the arguments surrounding this important issue. Accordingly, we urge the adoption of the proposed regulations, which are in keeping with the legislative intent of SB 924.

The Conservative Caucus is composed of conservative members of the Senate of Virginia and the House of Delegates that advocate and support low taxes and the reduction of government spending, promoting job growth, reducing crime and values based proposals.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Delegate Benjamin L. Cline
House Chairman



Senator Mark D. Obenshain
Senate Chairman



Delegate Kathy J. Byron



Delegate M. Kirkland Cox



Delegate Christopher K. Peace



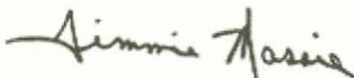
Delegate Charles D. Poindexter



Delegate Tony O. Wilt



Delegate Charles W. Carrico



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Delegate Mark L. Cole



Delegate Robert G. Marshall



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