Proponent, House Bill 2503

March 15, 2005

House Committee on Health and Human Services

Dear Chairman Morrison and committee members,

My name is Detective William Howard. I joined the Kansas City Kansas Police Department in 1982. I am here today to testify truthfully about events that I witnessed at an abortion clinic while performing my lawful duties as an officer. I am only here to relay the facts of my official investigation and do not represent either side of the issue of abortion by virtue of my role in the community.

On September 18th, 2003 my partner and I went to investigate a theft reported by Dr. Krishna Rajanna, at the Affordable Medicine Clinic at 1030 Central Ave, in KCK. Dr. Rajanna took us to the rear area, which could be described as a break room, to discuss employees he held responsible for money missing from his business. During this interview phase, my partner and I made these observations.

First, the doctor had an unkempt appearance. Dr. Rajanna lacked personal hygiene. His hair was messy, hands dirty, and his clothing was wrinkled and stained. He put on old, used foot booties while we were there.

The clinic was dirty inside. As we proceeded through the facility I noted the back area was very dark and dingy looking with poor lighting and smelling musty. We entered the “break room” to interview Rajanna. There were dirty dishes in the sink and on the tabletop, trash everywhere, and roaches crawling across the countertops, with a smell of a stench in the room. Frankly, I was reluctant to sit down. I noted there weren’t containers for medical waste with universally recognized hazardous waste labels on them. On the way out my partner observed that the “procedure room” was filthy. He told me that he saw dried blood on the floor and the room looked “nasty” to him.

The clinic was disorganized. Papers and other miscellaneous documents were strewn about causing there to be “clutter” everywhere. Dr. Rajanna apparently kept very poor records. He could not recall when these alleged thefts had occurred nor was he organized enough to locate any documents to support his allegations. I also noticed that the assistants seemed to be running everything though they were barely out of their teens. There were no credentials on the wall. One spoke only Spanish. I looked at the patient sign-in sheet as part of the investigation and it consisted merely of notebook paper.

This general lack of a professional and sanitary environment starkly contrasted with all my experiences inside other doctor offices.

It was determined that Dr. Rajanna’ theft charges could not be substantiated. Bank employees told us Dr. Rajanna has such loose record keeping practices concerning payroll checks that fraud could never be verified. Apparently the employees are allowed to write out their own payroll checks because Dr. Rajanna’s printing is difficult to read. I was also given several checks to verify this for comparison and his signature is indeed a scribble mark.

I received full co-operation from the Employees accused of the theft. They were initially treated as suspects, given their Miranda rights and provided us with full statements. In a statement to me one witness/suspect related how Dr. Rajanna was a filthy man who did not properly sterilize his equipment. The medical equipment was cleaned with Clorox and water then put in a “dishwasher”. The aborted fetuses were placed inside Styrofoam cups and put in the refrigerator freezer next to TV dinners. The female witness went on to describe of how she and other girls actually witnessed Rajanna microwave one of the aborted fetuses and stir it into his lunch. I have heard that some Middle
Easterners eat the placenta from birth and that they believe that this adds longevity to life. I thought “Maybe” this could be what she was referring to. This witness claimed other employees who had seen him do the very same thing.

The initial witness related that she felt that she had been terminated because she was pregnant. She was repeatedly encouraged to terminate the pregnancy and told that she would not serve as a good representative of this clinic by carrying the pregnancy to term. According to this witness, she was starting to feel compassion for the females who were being summarily ushered in and out without adequate recovery time.

I became so disturbed by the condition of this medical clinic that I contacted District Attorney Nick Tomasic and requested a meeting to discuss these issues. Bare in mind, I am an experienced police officer who has worked in every aspect in law enforcement and had spent my last five years in the homicide unit where I worked countless community deaths. I thought I had heard and seen every vile, disgusting crime scene but was in for a new shock when I started this investigation. Nick Tomasic permitted me an appointment so I brought the witness directly to him where she gave him a first person statement of her account. I repeatedly warned her not to lie or exaggerate. The witness was also told that she could be prosecuted for any false statements made from this moment forward, but that the prior statements would not be prosecutable. She told the exact same story to DA Tomasic as she had told us.

I was informed that no laws had been violated. After this Meeting, Mr. Tomasic told me that he would have his staff research the information for any law violations. Later, Mr. Tomasic provided me a list of 3 numbers and agencies that I could contact to complain about this clinic. I personally contacted the numbers on the list. One of the people I talked with was a female from Board of Healing Arts. I no longer have her name or any of the numbers I called regarding this investigation, but I believe I contacted Board of Healing Arts and someone from hazardous waste disposal center. I do not recall the third agency. The person at the Board, whose name I don’t know, related that numerous complaints had been made about the clinic but no laws have been violated. Finally, I gave this list of phone numbers to the witness and advised her that she could contact these numbers to describe the environment she had worked in and this was my very last contact with anyone involved with this investigation.

In March of 2004, I learned that an official investigation was underway and was requested to give a statement. My partner has testified as to these same events April 30, 2004, before a group of Senators here at the Capitol at the request of Sen. Kerr. Thank you for your time, I stand for questions.