

## Testimony of Cheryl Sullenger to be given at the Kansas Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee

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My name is Cheryl Sullenger. I live in Wichita, Kansas and am the Outreach coordinator for Operation Rescue. I have been involved in the pro-life ministry for over 21 years. I also spend time outside the city's abortion clinics offering practical help and alternatives to women seeking abortions. While engaged in these activities I have witnessed a number of times when ambulances have arrived at George Tiller's Women's Health Care Services, an unlicensed, unregulated "doctor's office" where dangerous late-term abortion are performed.

There have been times when I have not been at the abortion clinic, but other sidewalk counselors on site have called me to let me know that ambulances have arrived to transport women to the hospital. When that happens, I go immediately to Wesley Medical Center where I have videotaped and photographed ambulances from Tiller's rushing women into the emergency room. We document these occasions so that the public will understand the outrageous number of life-threatening complications that are occurring at these unregulated abortion facilities.

Since **January, 2004**, I have witnessed **five times** when a patient at Tiller's WHCS had to be rushed to the emergency room with apparent life-threatening abortion complications. We know that these are life threatening injuries because we have possession of a video tape that George Tiller made in 1996 for women considering abortion for fetal abnormality. On this video, Tiller tells his audience that women are transported to the hospital when their abortion complications are so serious that he cannot treat them at his so-called "hospital-like" clinic.



### **Injury # 1: On February 17**

of this year I received a phone call and was notified that an ambulance had just arrived at Women's Health Care Services. I went to Wesley Medical and took the following photograph of the woman that had been transported from WHCS.

The woman was not moving and it is unknown what happened to her. I know this is the same woman that left WHCS because the people on site reported the ambulance number to me and this is that ambulance.

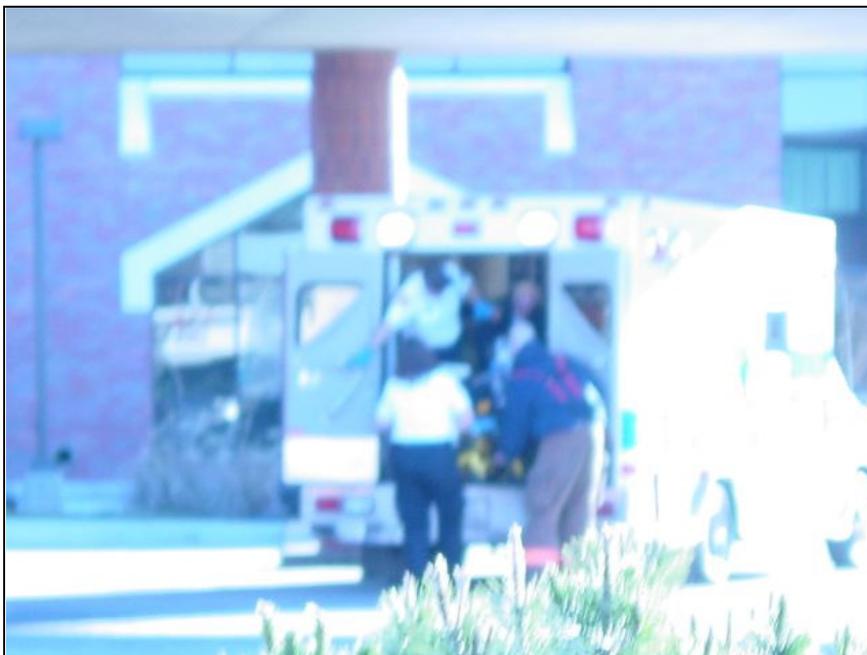
February 17, 2005. Photo by Cheryl Sullenger

**Injury # 2: On January 13, 2005**, I received a similar call and I went immediately to the hospital. There I saw emergency workers frantically attempting to get an injured woman into the

ER as fast as they could. They were very grim and looked highly concerned and in a very serious rush. **We later learned that this woman, a 19-year old Texas resident with Down's Syndrome, in fact died from her abortion-related complications during the third day of her late-term abortion procedure.**



Photo taken January 13, 2005 by Judi Weldy.



This photo, by Brenna Sullenger, is out of focus because Sullenger suspected how serious this young lady's injuries were from the demeanor of the EMTs and was shaking because she was so upset.

**Injury #3: On September 2, 2004,** I received another call from sidewalk counselors. I arrived at Wesley Medical Center and videotaped the ambulance entering and unloading a woman on a gurney who was rushed into the Emergency Room. I was met there by Troy Newman who took the following still photo showing abortionist George Tiller stepping out of the ambulance dressed in surgical attire. I observed this woman writhing in pain as she was wheeled in to the ER.



September 2, 2004. Photo by Troy Newman.

**Injury # 4:** On June 4, 2004, I was sidewalk counseling outside WHCS when an ambulance arrived. I followed the ambulance from WHCS to Wesley Hospital. Again, I was videotaping the events while Troy Newman took the still photos you see here. The fate of this woman is unknown.



June 4, 2004, Photo by Troy Newman. A woman is being taken to the ambulance at the rear of WHCS. I am pictured across the fence in the middle with a video camera to my face.



George Tiller, seen here in a navy blue shirt and tan pants, helps wheel one of his patients into the Wesley Medical Center Emergency room after emergency transport from his abortion mill, Women's Health Care Services in Wichita.

**Injury # 5:** On January 23, 2004, I received another phone call that an ambulance had arrived at WHCS. By the time I arrived at Wesley Medical center, the woman had already been transported inside, but I noticed that Tiller's clinic manager had followed the ambulance and was parked in the emergency Room parking lot, making the link between the clinic and the ER. It is unknown what happened to this woman.



The black Nissan Altima in the foreground is registered to a woman who was Tiller's clinic manager at that time. She no longer is employed by Tiller. This photo was taken by Cheryl Sullenger minutes after an ambulance delivered a woman to Wesley's ER from Tiller's mill on January 23, 2004.

In all I have seen **five women** transported from Tiller's abortion mill to the hospital of emergency care all in a **13 month time period**. One of those women tragically died. At the request of Shelley Wakeman, Disciplinary Counsel for the Kansas State Board of Healing Arts (KSBHA), I filed a complaint against George Tiller with the KSBHA and requested an investigation into the abortion death. I received an immediate response that an investigation had

been launched. That was two months ago. I have heard nothing since. In the mean time, another abortion injury occurred.

Some will tell you there is no way to know if the woman's death was abortion related, but I can assure you that it was. We know Tiller's schedule and practices intimately from study, experience, investigative research, and from Tiller's own words recorded on videotape.

Texas woman, we will call Anna (not her true name) came to Wichita on Monday, January 10, 2005, and checked into the La Quinta Hotel. This is where all of Tiller's out of state patients stayed at that time. On Tuesday morning, she was taken to Tiller's clinic where, with the use of ultrasound here pre-born baby's heart was injected with a muscle paralyzer. Anna was then sent back to the hotel to await the onset of labor. Later, on Thursday or Friday, she would have returned to the clinic to expel her dead child. However, something went terribly wrong on Thursday, January 13, and three days into a dangerous late-term abortion, this young lady suffered fatal complications and died at the hospital later that day.

She did not deserve what happened to her. Neither did the other women who suffered serious complications requiring emergency hospitalization. We may never fully know the fate of these women or what complications they suffered. But their stories prove one thing beyond any reasonable doubt: These clinics ARE NOT SAFE.

We do not know the state inside these places because they are not inspected. We do not know if they are following any kind of standards or even if the employees so much as wash their hands, because there is no standard that they must meet nor penalties for providing shoddy services. If clinic regulation had been in place, perhaps young Anna would still be with us today.

I would like to conclude with Anna's Story that I wrote and published on our web site at [www.operationrescue.org](http://www.operationrescue.org). Through careful research, I was able to determine who this young lady was, and how loved she was by those who knew her. Her story is a tragedy that must not be repeated. **In memorial to Anna, please pass HB 2503 and help insure that there are no more of these needless tragedies.**

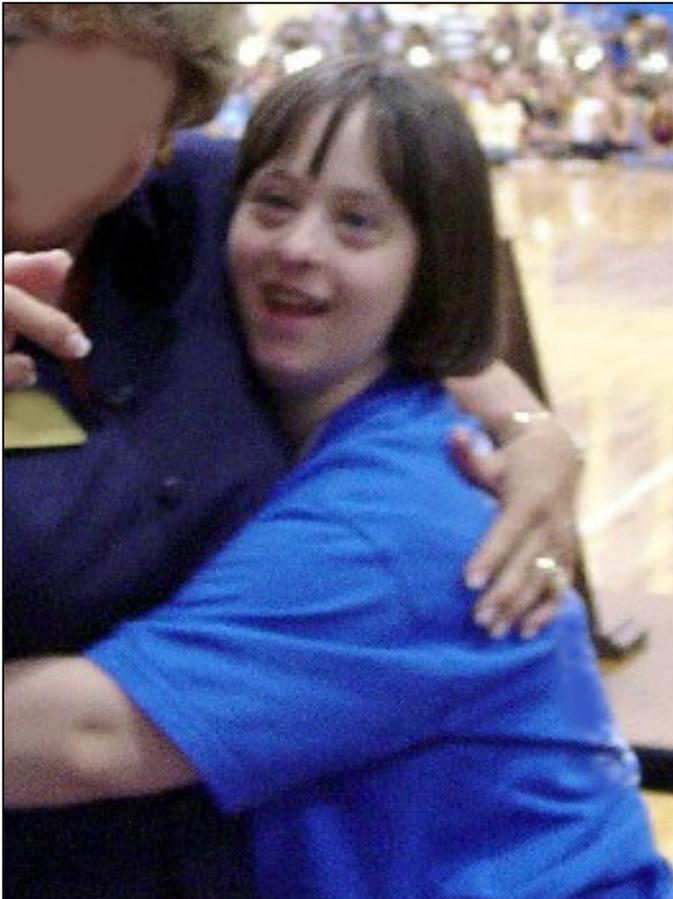
## **"Anna's" Story**

*Victim of fatal abortion was loved by family, community*

*[A young lady died from complications arising from an abortion at George Tiller's infamous late term abortion mill, Women's Health Care Services, on January 13, 2005. As a memorial to her, we want to share with you some of the details of her all-too-short life, uncovered by Operation Rescue researchers. All information contained herein was obtained from public records and documents, however, out of courtesy to the grieving family, we have changed the young lady's name and withheld the name of her hometown.]*

Anna was born on May 30, 1985 in Austin, Texas, but spent most of her life in a small Texas town. Anna had Down's Syndrome, but that did not stop her from embracing life and living it to the fullest. Anna was raised by her loving family, which consisted of her mother, father, and sister. Anna became involved in sports early in her life to help her meet people and make friends. She became very involved in the Special Olympics and that involvement continued until her untimely death.

Anna graduated from the Special Education Program of her hometown high school in 2004. While in high school, Anna became the inspirational member of the girl's soft-ball team, serving as their bat girl. Team members were never allowed to get down during a tough game because Anna would meet them at the dugout with hugs, telling them that she loved them. This kept spirits high and eventually Anna's team won a state championship, something of which Anna and her family were especially proud.



“Anna,” one of God’s “Angels”  
May 30, 1985 – January 13, 2005

In life, Anna was a joy to be around, and if you were near her, it meant that you would be the recipient of her many hugs. She was the center of attention when she walked into a room because of her outgoing and loving spirit.

Tragically, sometime in 2004, Anna was sexually assaulted. As a result, Anna became pregnant. She was taken to George Tiller’s Women’s Health Care Services in Wichita, Kansas, for an abortion in the late stages of her pregnancy. But something went wrong, and a 911 call was placed by Tiller employee Marguerite Reed, who was evasive with the dispatcher and placed him on hold for 45 critical seconds while she inquired about how much she should tell him. Upon arrival, the ambulance crew determined that Anna’s condition warranted emergency transport with all haste to Wesley Medical Center’s Emergency Room, where according to her obituary, she died of heart failure later that day. OR staffers photographed the ambulance and George Tiller’s arrival at the ER and broke the story of her death in the media.

A Grand Jury from the State of Texas is investigating crimes committed against Anna, and

the Attorney General of the State of Kansas has launched an investigation into her death in Wichita.

She was loved by all who knew her and her death has left a void in the lives of her family and community.

Anna was buried on January 21, 2005, after a private funeral service held in her hometown. In her obituary, Anna was called “one of God’s angel’s.” The heartbreaking nature of Anna’s needless and untimely death compels Operation Rescue continue to work towards seeking justice for Anna and protection for other pregnant women and their pre-born babies so that Anna’s tragedy is not repeated.

Further documentation is available at <http://operationrescue.org/>.