



Florida House of Representatives

Ray Sansom, Speaker

February 17, 2009

The Honorable Katherine Fernandez Rundle
State Attorney
11th Judicial Circuit
E.R. Graham Building
1350 N.W. 12th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33136-2111

Dear State Attorney Rundle:

As you are well aware, there have been many recent state and national news articles accounting the tragic events that occurred at A GYN Diagnostic Center, an abortion clinic in Miami-Dade County, on or around July 20, 2006. As reported, these events have caused concerns for many Floridians.

As the branch of government responsible for establishing public policy in Florida, the Legislature has passed laws intended to hold individuals responsible for senseless acts intended to harm another human being, whether those humans live only long enough to take one or two breaths or millions in their lives. Based on the autopsy conducted by the Miami-Dade County Medical Examiner Department on or around July 29, 2006, the Department of Health concluded that baby Shanice Williams, the victim in this case, filled her air with lungs after she was born. However, we were deprived of knowing just how many breaths baby Shanice could take in her life because her life was callously and inhumanely taken from her with no regard for basic human decency or her own medical needs.

As other cases in the country have shown, a child born at 23 weeks development has the chance to survive if provided with appropriate medical care. Instead of providing any medical care to baby Shanice, certain individuals at that abortion clinic appear to have treated her as garbage by cutting her umbilical cord with scissors, and then placing her in a plastic bag and disposing of her. The facts as alleged by the victim's mother supported actions taken by the Department of Health and Board of Medicine.

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As Members of the Florida House of Representative we acknowledge and respect your prosecutorial discretion in determining whether to file charges in any given matter and that you must examine the facts and circumstances of each case before exercising that discretion. Moreover, we understand the importance of having sufficient evidence to warrant filing charges so that cases can be brought to trial to successfully punish those responsible.

It is our understanding that your office has been aware of this incident for more than 2 years. Clearly, based on the facts as reported, these events have resulted in the intentional taking of innocent human life. The undersigned Members of the Florida Legislature from both sides of the debate on this issue strongly urge you to take appropriate action against the individuals involved in these morally reprehensible acts.

Sincerely,

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