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Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri

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Dear

**Happy New Year!**

It was a great start to 2016 for Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri (PPKM). On December 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015, U.S. District Judge Nanette Laughrey issued a preliminary injunction blocking Missouri's Department of Health and Senior Services from revoking PPKM's license to perform abortions at our Columbia health center. This ruling is a huge victory for PPKM and reproductive rights in Missouri! Judge Laughrey's decision included powerful language that affirms the State of Missouri has acted with animus towards the work of PPKM:

*"DHSS's disparate treatment of PPKM cannot be justified by political pressure or public opposition to PPKM. '[I]f the constitutional conception of 'equal protection of the laws' means anything, it must at the very least mean that a bar [legislative] desire to harm a politically unpopular group cannot constitute a legitimate governmental interest.' ... Therefore, PPKM is entitled to a preliminary injunction pending resolution of the case on its merits."*

**The fight continues.**

While we have retained our license, we still cannot resume abortion services as our physician no longer has the legally required hospital privileges. If you recall, the University of Missouri Hospital revoked clinical privileges for our provider, Dr. Colleen McNicholas, on December 1, 2015. Dr. McNicholas continues to seek alternative privileges, and we will stand by her through this uphill battle. We will not give up this fight. The mid-Missouri community deserves access to the full range of reproductive health care services, including abortion, and shouldn't have to drive more than 100 miles to access that care.

**We need your help.**

A gift from you helps us cover continuing legal costs as we work to sustain abortion access and reproductive freedom in Missouri. We won a victory in December, but we need to restore services as soon as possible. Our work continues as we strive for a world where women and men decide what's best for their lives, not politicians. We need your continued commitment to take back our rights, ensure access to care, and change the landscape of reproductive health in Missouri and beyond.

Please consider a donation today. **Together, WE ARE Planned Parenthood.**

Sincerely,

Laura McQuade  
President & CEO  
Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri