



June 18, 2020

*Via E-Mail and U.S. Mail*

Secretary Alex M. Azar II  
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to you about a very serious threat to the lives and health of women that is occurring at a late-term abortion facility in Bethesda, Maryland. This involves two very horrific life-threatening abortion-related injuries that occurred nine days apart, according to information we received from a whistleblower who was a first-hand eye witness to these events.

The facility in question is now operating under the name of CARE, located at 10401 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, Maryland.<sup>1</sup> It is owned and operated by a nationally known abortionist, LeRoy Harrison Carhart, Jr., who specializes in abortions throughout all nine months of pregnancy.<sup>2</sup>

The two women suffered life-threatening injuries that required emergency surgery and hospitalization after both received abortions at 25 weeks of pregnancy at the CARE abortion facility.

The eye witness came forward as a whistleblower after witnessing the horrific injuries inflicted on the women and their unborn babies as the result of abortions conducted on May 12 and 21, 2020.

#### **Federal assistance required**

The reason we are contacting you is that we have filed several complaints<sup>3</sup> against Carhart with the Maryland Board of Physicians in the past over serious abortion injuries and an abortion-related patient death, but the Board has refused to take disciplinary action against Carhart no matter how much documentation we provide.

This situation is at a point where we do not believe that we can ever persuade the Board of the serious health threat women face during late-term abortions done by Carhart, who is now 78 years old and in declining health.

#### **Whistleblower**

The whistleblower, who will remain anonymous, provided us with information that we were able to partially verify.

Operation Rescue obtained Incident Reports<sup>4,5</sup> from the Montgomery County Maryland Fire and Rescue Service for both emergencies that verified ambulances were in fact summoned to provide emergency care at Carhart's clinic. Both women were transported to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Rockville, Maryland. Carhart holds no hospital privileges there or anywhere else in the U.S.

We were also able to verify that the two surgeons who conducted emergency surgery on the two women are actual physicians affiliated with Shady Grove Adventist Hospital. More on that below.

### **Request an investigation**

We are specifically seeking an investigation into the medical emergencies that resulted in hospitalization from life-threatening injuries that occurred on May 12 and 21, 2020. Their horrific injuries can only be attributed to gross incompetence.

However, there are 20 additional known serious patient injuries that have occurred at facilities Carhart owns or was employed at in Maryland and Nebraska since 2012, that we also request you look into, because to gives a better picture of the pattern of negligent behavior and the true scope of dangers at Carhart's abortion practice.

The Nebraska facility owned by Carhart has operated under a number of names, but is now conducting business under the name of CARE, located at 1002 W. Mission Avenue, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005.

We are especially concerned because Carhart has been involved in at least two known patient deaths. I filed complaints with Medical Boards in both cases, but both cases were closed without disciplinary action.

On February 7, 2013, Jennifer Morbelli, 29, died after a mishandled 33-week Carhart abortion.<sup>6</sup> The Maryland Board of Physicians failed to take disciplinary action in Morbelli's case, even though we had reason to believe she was essentially abandoned by him, which led to a delay in her receiving proper emergency care.

Carhart was also involved in the abortion-related death of Christin Gilbert,<sup>7</sup> 19, who died from complications to a 29-week botched abortion on January 13, 2005, while Carhart was conducting late-term abortions at a now-closed Wichita, Kansas, abortion late-term abortion facility. This was another tragedy that went without justice.

Operation Rescue spoke directly to the whistleblower about the most two most recent incidents in May. The descriptions of the horrific injuries are not for the faint of heart.

### **May 12, 2020**

According to the Incident Report, on May 12, 2020, at 3:50 p.m. a 911 call requested an ambulance at 10401 Old Georgetown Road in Bethesda, the location of Carhart's abortion facility. An ambulance that was equipped to provide advanced life support (ALS) was dispatched along with a second unit in support.

The patient, was examined, given care, and transported to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital.

The whistleblower is the primary source of information after both women arrived at the hospital.

Once at the emergency room, the woman was evaluated and found to be in critical condition as the result of a serious complications to a Dilation & Evacuation dismemberment abortion at 25 weeks gestation.



She was bleeding heavily from a ruptured uterus and other internal injuries, in shock, and on the verge of unconsciousness. She was also feverish – hot to the touch – and showing signs of sepsis.

Within minutes, the patient was rushed into the operating room for emergency surgery. Once her belly was opened, it was determined that her internal injuries were so severe that a call was made for a general surgeon.

The whistleblower described it as “the most horrific thing I have ever seen.”

There was an enormous amount of blood due to a “huge” tear in the uterus and “mangled” tissue that was once a bowel. The woman required a transfusion of multiple units of blood.

Parts of the baby had been left inside, some of which had been shoved through the uterine tear and high into the abdominal cavity, including a severed leg that was intact from the hip down.

Because the surgeon was unable to completely repair the massive damage, so the woman’s bowel was resected and she was given a colostomy that included an external bag. After the surgeon did as much for the patient as was possible at that time, the woman was sent to the Intensive Care Unit where she remained intubated for two days before being transferred to a standard room. She remained in the hospital and was discharged on the morning of May 21 -- nine days after her near-fatal injuries.

According to the whistleblower, those involved in treating the woman were so upset by what they witnessed that the surgeon saw the need to send out an e-mail to the hospital staff acknowledging their trauma while caring for this woman.

### **May 21, 2020**

The second Incident Report noted that an ambulance was once again called to Carhart’s CARE abortion facility in Bethesda on May 21, 2020, at 1:05 p.m. for a woman in need of emergency assistance and transport.

An ambulance equipped for basic life support (BLS) arrived, examined and provided treatment, then transported her to Shady Grove Adventist Hospital.

The whistleblower indicated that Carhart had called ahead to notify the emergency room that he was sending another patient over with a perforated uterus.

This emergency was very similar to the previous one from May 12, but according to the whistleblower, it was actually much worse. The woman arrived in “very critical” condition after injuries suffered during a Dilation and Evacuation dismemberment abortion at 25 weeks.

Again, a surgeon was called and this time the uterine rupture was so large and the hemorrhaging was so severe that a hysterectomy was required, ending the woman’s ability to ever bear another child.

The woman required four units of blood “just to keep her alive.”

The perforation at the back of the uterus was described as the size of a hand spread out, or about 8-9 inches.

Unlike the last patient, the bowel for this woman was intact, but suction marks on the outside of the bowel were observed.

The body 25-week baby had been shoved through the huge rip in the womb and into the abdominal cavity. The baby was intact except for a missing arm and part of the spinal column. Its head was still attached, but only by a strip of flesh.

The whistleblower indicated that it was quite upsetting to see a nearly complete fetus pushed inside the abdominal cavity, and wondered about the force it took to shove the baby's body that far into the mother's abdomen.

### **The abortionist**

Carhart has had several people rotating in and out of his Bethesda facility conducting abortions, sometimes for training purposes. Due to advancing age and health issues, it has been thought that Carhart had cut back on the number of abortions that he was personally doing. However, Carhart is the owner of both CARE facilities in Bethesda, Maryland, and Bellevue, Nebraska, and acts as Medical Director for both facilities. That makes him responsible for the medical care provided at his facilities.

When asked specifically if the name of the actual abortionist was known, the whistleblower remarked that it was almost like to one really wanted to even say where the women had come from. However, the whistleblower did verify that Carhart was the one who personally called the hospital to alert staff to the arrive of the woman on May 21. The Montgomery County Incident reports verify that the women were transported from the location of Carhart's Bethesda abortion facility.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



## Seeking accountability

The gruesome nature of these abortion injuries and the emotional impact they had on hospital staff is so serious, that we must demand that Carhart be held responsible for the human misery he has inflicted on those who have suffered from this obvious incompetence.

We literally have no where else to turn except to you for help to stop Carhart from inflicting more harm on women and their innocent unborn babies. Please conduct an investigation into LeRoy Carhart's late-term abortion practices in Nebraska and Maryland.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Sullenger  
Senior Vice President  
Operation Rescue  
315-516-3034

Cc: Dr. Jerome Adams, U.S. Surgeon General  
Vice President Mike Pence

## Footnotes

1. <https://abortionclinics.org/>
2. <https://abortionclinics.org/about-us/>
3. List of Maryland complaints: <https://www.operationrescue.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Complaint-Surveys-at-MD-Surgical-Abortion-Facility-Surveys.pdf>
4. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Incident Report, May 12, 2020: <https://www.operationrescue.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/5-12-Incidents.-10401-Old-Georgetown-Rd-1.pdf>
5. Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Incident Report, May 21, 2020: <https://www.operationrescue.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/5-21-Incidents.-10401-Old-Georgetown-Rd-2.pdf>
6. "Operation Rescue files formal complaint against Carhart with Maryland Medical Board in patient death," 2/21/2013 <http://www.operationrescue.org/archives/operation-rescue-files-formal-complaint-against-carhart-with-md-medical-board-in-patient-death/>
7. "In memory of Christin Gilbert, 1989-2005" <http://www.operationrescue.org/noblog/in-memory-of-christin-gilbert-1985-2005/>