

Senator Carney, Representative Moonen, and Honorable Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Susan Clardy, and I live in Augusta, Maine. I'm here to testify in opposition to LD 1619.

On September 23, 2019, the Washington Examiner reported on a hearing in California regarding undercover videos made by the Center for Medical Progress, featuring Planned Parenthood executives discussing abortion industry practices. Obstetrician Forrest Smith, who stated he's performed at least 50,000 abortions, testified that **"Planned Parenthood and other abortion clinics were selling aborted baby parts for profit, but babies were often born alive, then murdered, in order to ensure the organs to be sold were more fresh and intact."**

Smith further testified that "based on what he saw in the videos and what he knows about the abortion industry, he believes doctors performed abortion procedures so that babies would be born alive, even though it puts the mother at greater risk."

In a presentation, given at a 2014 Planned Parenthood conference, "[Dr.] Alisa Goldberg suggested using large doses of misoprostol so a second-trimester induced abortion procedure could be completed in one day." The large dose often causes rapid delivery of a live baby. Smith also testified that "very few people in abortion, outside of Planned Parenthood, do that." Dr. Smith's testimony contradicted previous claims by Planned Parenthood that babies' organs were simply being donated for scientific research and that their abortion procedures did not put mother or baby at risk.

To anyone with a basic respect for human life, this bill is unconscionable. It has nothing to do with risk to the mother or viability of the baby. That is clearly a pretext, as there are no guidelines for either, set forth in the bill and to suggest otherwise is disingenuous. So, what is the true motive? Is it money? Chopping babies into pieces and selling them for profit is a very lucrative business for Planned Parenthood and its affiliates. Is it for religious purposes? The Satanic Temple has sued several states, asserting that restrictions on abortion infringe on their right to hold "Satanic Abortion Rituals," claiming they're fundamental to their religious beliefs.

Mainers are good and decent people and most do not support infanticide. The incremental debasement of human life leads to a very dark and frightening place for all of us. I would ask each of you to examine your conscience before voting and ask yourselves whose interests are truly being served by this bill? And who do you really serve?

If you do vote to pass this bill, at the very least all financial incentives for killing pre-born babies should be removed. No money should ever change hands in exchange for snuffing out the life of an innocent baby. If funneling back-end profits to reliable donors isn't the true motive for this legislation, nobody should object to that.

Please vote ought not to pass.

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/abortion-doctor-admits-sold-baby-parts-often-came-from-babies-born-alive>
<https://www.newsweek.com/satanic-temple-sues-states-infringing-religious-abortion-ritual-indiana-idaho-1748758>
<https://www.centerformedicalprogress.org/human-capital/how-planned-parenthood-profits-from-fetal-tissue-donation/>



HUMAN CAPITAL project

Fact Sheet: Tissue Procurement Organizations (TPOs)

Tissue Procurement Organizations (TPOs) are “middleman” companies that procure human tissue samples and supply them to researchers. There are several TPOs that specialize in or are devoted entirely to selling aborted fetal tissue:

Advanced Bioscience Resources (ABR) – ABR, headquartered in Alameda, CA, is the largest and oldest fetal tissue seller in the U.S. ABR was founded in 1989¹ by Linda Tracy, a nurse who had previously worked for the National Disease Research Interchange (NDRI) in Philadelphia, PA. At the time, NDRI was also involved in fetal tissue sales. Today, ABR operates in abortion clinics in California, Minnesota, Oregon, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and an unknown number of other states. ABR is organized as a 501(c)3 non-profit, but brings in over \$1-1.5 million in fetal tissue sales revenue each year.²

StemExpress, LLC – StemExpress, based in Placerville, CA, was founded in 2010 by Cate Dyer, a former procurement technician for ABR. StemExpress has close ties to Planned Parenthood and employs Planned Parenthood abortion doctor Ronald Berman as its Medical Director.³ StemExpress charges \$595 per fetal tissue specimen and had a yearly revenue of \$2.2 million in 2014.⁴

Novogenix Laboratories, LLC – Novogenix was founded by Dr. Ben Van Handel while a graduate student at UCLA.⁵ Novogenix is partnered with Planned Parenthood Los Angeles and is the TPO served by PPFA Senior Director of Medical Services, Dr. Deborah Nucatola.

SciKon Innovation – SciKon is a more generalized human biologics company located in Chapel Hill, NC. However, like many TPOs, SciKon does offer aborted fetal tissue procurement to clients as a custom product.

Anatomic Gift Foundation (AGF) – A non-profit company established in 1994, one of the largest and oldest whole body donation programs. AGF was heavily involved in fetal tissue sales in the 1990s, although claims to have ended its fetal tissue procurement since then. However, AGF is cited as the source of 7 aborted fetal kidneys used in a 2014 study.^{6,7}

¹ “Overview,” Advanced Bioscience Resources, Inc. <http://www.centerformedicalprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/OVERVIEW.pdf>

² See 2013, 2012, and 2011 IRS Form 990-PF for ABR, <http://www.guidestar.org/FinDocuments/2013/943/110/2013-943110160-0ae637bf-F.pdf>, <http://www.guidestar.org/FinDocuments/2012/943/110/2012-943110160-09c27aff-F.pdf>, and <http://www.guidestar.org/FinDocuments/2011/943/110/2011-943110160-08be399f-F.pdf>

³ “Dr. Ron Berman,” StemExpress. <http://stemexpress.com/team/dr-ron-berman/>

⁴ Schneider, Kirsten, “Fast-Growing StemExpress Provides Clinical Specimens to Advance Research.” *SARTA* 18 February 2014. <http://sarta.org/blog/fast-growing-stemexpress-provides-clinical-specimens-to-advance-research/>

⁵ “B.V.H., A.H., and M.M. are cofounders of and own significant financial stakes in Novogenix Laboratories, LLC.” See Mikkola et al, “The first trimester human placenta is a site for terminal maturation of primitive erythroid cells.” *Blood* 28 October 2010. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2995359/>

⁶ Ben-Dov et al. “Urine MicroRNA as Potential Biomarkers of Autosomal Dominant Polycystic Kidney Disease Progression: Description of miRNA Profiles at Baseline.” *PLOS ONE* 29 January 2014. <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0086856>

⁷ Flatten, Mark. “Horror stories show body procurement trade.” *East Valley Tribune* 12 July 2004.

http://www.eastvalleytribune.com/special_reports/bodymarket/article_ffb7810b-d443-536f-857e-7d6cd38bd775.html