

Governor Kate Brown
Office of the Governor
900 Court Street, Suite 254
Salem, OR 97301-4047

Patrick Allen, Director of the Oregon Health Authority
Oregon Health Authority
500 Summer Street, NE, E-20
Salem, OR 97301-1097

Dear Governor Kate Brown and the Oregon Health Authority Director, Patrick Allen:

We write to request that you take appropriate action to close all abortion facilities during the ongoing COVID-19 crisis.

On March 19, all elective non-urgent health care procedures were ordered to be postponed in order to conserve hospital beds and personal protective equipment (PPE).¹ As of March 29, Oregon is still facing a shortage of PPE despite the thousands of donations received by the state Emergency Coordination Center (EEC).²

Many healthcare organizations and facilities in Oregon obeyed Executive Order No. 20-12, halting all elective and non-urgent procedures and giving over their PPE. Abortion facilities, however, did not.

According to Executive Order (EO) No. 20-12, OHA, subject to the Governor, has the authority to determine if additional business closures are necessary to slow the spread of COVID-19.³

We ask that you close all abortion facilities in Oregon during the COVID-19 crisis for the following reasons:

1. An abortion procedure is an elective procedure.
2. Abortion facilities should be covered under EO 20-12 per the guidance for elective and non-urgent health care procedures because an abortion procedure requires the use of PPE.⁴

¹ https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive_orders/eo_20-12.pdf,
https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive_orders/eo_20-10.pdf

² <https://www.oregon.gov/newsroom/Pages/NewsDetail.aspx?newsid=36283>

³ https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/executive_orders/eo_20-12.pdf

⁴ <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/le2284.pdf>

3. In Oregon, nearly 4% of women who receive an abortion have some complications.⁵ These complications arise from both surgical and medication abortions. Complications after an abortion procedure require a subsequent procedure in an emergency room, decreasing the available inpatient beds needed for COVID-19 patients.
4. Four abortion facilities are known to be performing surgical abortions in Oregon.⁶ Surgical abortions require in-person contact between the abortion doctor and patient which makes it impossible for these facilities to comply with the social distancing guidelines. These facilities are located in urban areas and in locations where COVID-19 cases have been confirmed.⁷ Keeping these abortion facilities open will not slow down the spread of COVID-19.

Closing abortion facilities during the COVID-19 crisis will support Oregon’s health care system, increase the available PPE for frontline health care workers, leave inpatient beds available for COVID-19 patients, and overall aid in preventing the spread of COVID-19.

Please close all abortion facilities in Oregon.

Abortion clinic	Type of abortion provided	County	# of confirmed COVID-19 cases*
Planned Parenthood - Ashland	Medication	Jackson	20
Planned Parenthood - Beaverton	Medication	Washington	168
Planned Parenthood - Bend	Medication, Surgical	Deschutes	25
Planned Parenthood - Eugene-Springfield	Medication, Surgical	Lane	12
Planned Parenthood - Grants Pass	Medication	Josephine	10
Lovejoy Surgicenter	Medication, Surgical	Multnomah	100
Planned Parenthood - Medford	Medication	Jackson	20

⁵

<https://www.oregon.gov/OHA/PH/BIRTHDEATHCERTIFICATES/VITALSTATISTICS/ANNUALREPORTS/VOLUME1/Documents/2017/2017Table0304.pdf>

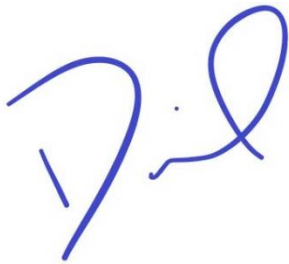
⁶ According to the Planned Parenthood website, Bend, Eugene-Springfield, and NE Portland are offering surgical abortions. Lovejoy in Portland is offer surgical abortions. In Deschutes County, 25 confirmed COVID-19 cases. 12 confirmed COVID-19 cases in Lane County. 100 confired COVID-19 cases in Multnomah County. All three counties are among the top 10 highest confirmed COVID-19 counties in Oregon. <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6c96b225a8424992b56e59400a30dab4>

⁷ <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6c96b225a8424992b56e59400a30dab4>

Planned Parenthood - Milwaukie-Oak Grove	Medication	Clackamas	40
Planned Parenthood - NE Portland	Medication, Surgical	Multnomah	100
Planned Parenthood - Salem Health Center	Medication	Marion	123
Planned Parenthood - SE Portland	Medication	Multnomah	100

* The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases as of March 30, 2020.

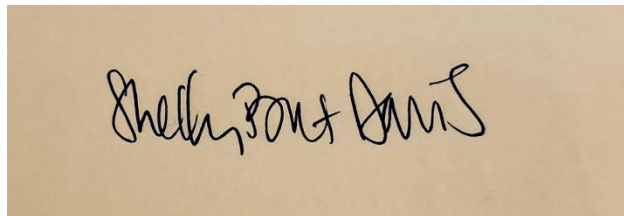
Sincerely,



Representative Daniel Bonham



Representative Greg Smith



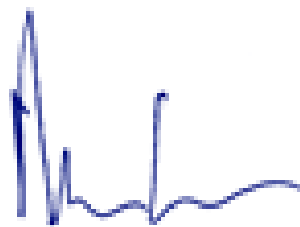
Representative Shelly Boshart Davis



Representative Rick Lewis



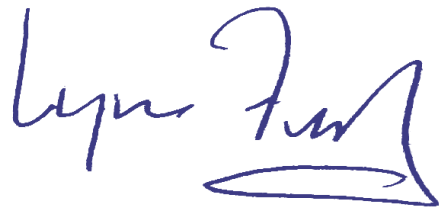
Representative Vikki Breese-Iverson



Representative Mark Owens



Representative E. Werner Reschke



Senator Lynn Findley



Representative Sherrie Sprenger



Senator Dennis Linthicum



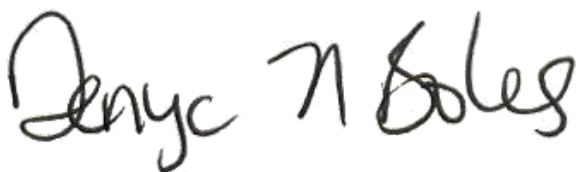
Representative Duane Stark



Senator Kim Thatcher



Representative Carl Wilson



Senator Denyc Boles



Senator Chuck Thomsen

Signers without signatures:

Representative Greg Barreto
Representative Rachel Moore-Green
Representative Kim Wallan

Senator Bill Hansell
Senator Tim Knopp