



UNITED STATES MISSION TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

June 23, 2015

Ms. Emna Aouij
Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group
on the issue of discrimination against women
in law and in practice
Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. Dainius Puras
Special Rapporteur on the right of
everyone to the enjoyment of the
highest attainable standard of
physical and mental health
Geneva, Switzerland

Ms. Farida Manjoo
Special Rapporteur on violence against women,
its causes and consequence
Geneva, Switzerland

Dear Ms. Aouij, Mr. Puras, and Ms. Manjoo:

Thank you for your letter of February 11, 2015 concerning House Bill No. 2 (H.B. 2), legislation adopted by the state of Texas in 2013 relating to the regulation of abortion procedures, providers, and facilities.

On June 9, 2015, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit issued a decision in litigation challenging H.B. 2. The court found that "H.B. 2 and its provisions may be applied throughout Texas, except that Supreme Court precedent requires us to partially uphold the district court's injunction of the ASC [ambulatory surgical centers] requirement as applied to the Whole Woman's Health abortion facility in McAllen, Texas and to uphold the district court's injunction of the admitting privileges requirement as applied to Dr. Lynn [the petitioner] when he is working at the McAllen facility." The complete text of the court's opinion is available at <http://www.ca5.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/14/14-50928-CV0.pdf>. The plaintiffs asked the Fifth Circuit to stay its mandate. The Fifth Circuit denied the motion on June 19, 2015 (while modifying its June 9 ruling to provide that the injunction of the ASC requirement as applied to the McAllen facility should remain in effect until October 29, 2015). The plaintiffs have now filed an application with the Supreme Court for a stay of the Fifth Circuit's mandate pending the filing and disposition of a petition for a writ of certiorari. The executive branch of the federal government is not a party to the litigation, but we would be happy to update you on any further developments in the litigation.

OHCHR REGISTRY

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Recipients : SPD.....

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The Obama Administration is committed to promoting women's health and eliminating barriers to health care services, including legal abortion, and will continue to work with state officials on policies consistent with that goal. The Affordable Care Act helps make preventive health care affordable and accessible by requiring most health plans to cover, without cost-sharing, certain preventive health benefits for women, including contraception and contraception counselling, mammography screenings, and breastfeeding counselling. An estimated 8.7 million American women with individual insurance coverage gained coverage for maternity services because of the health care law. President Obama has consistently supported and defended Title X family planning clinics, proposing funding increases for these clinics above prior year levels in each year of his Administration. For many women, a family planning clinic is their entry point into the health care system and is their primary source of care. These services are highly cost-effective, saving \$4 for every \$1 spent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Harper', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith M. Harper
Ambassador
U.S. Representative to the United Nations
Human Rights Council