

KATHY CASTOR
14TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND POWER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
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December 2, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Disband the Select Panel to Attack Women's Health

Dear Speaker Ryan and Chairman Upton:

In the aftermath of the Colorado Springs Planned Parenthood murders and shooting, I urge you to disband the Select Panel to Attack Women's Health. There is no justification whatsoever to support continuation of the Select Panel. The State of Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) determined this week that Florida Planned Parenthood clinics have *not* violated the law *in any way*. (See attached press reports.) The FDLE finding is consistent with Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) some months back that there are no violations of law. The Florida finding is similar to the findings of every other state that have examined the accusations against the health clinics *and* the findings of all congressional committees to date. In fact, there is no good reason to embark upon a costly, taxpayer-funded witch hunt against Planned Parenthood and women's health care. The misinformation and inflammatory language has had dire consequences already and it must end.

The doctored and distorted videos that originally caused the uproar have been discredited and it is below the dignity of the House of Representatives to waste taxpayer money on a political stunt such as the Select Panel. I urge you not to participate in the troubling and politically-driven pattern we have witnessed across the country based upon these false videos. We need look no further than the horrific tragedy that occurred in Colorado Springs last week to understand how such provocative speech can lead to great harm. I respectfully request that you end this unnecessary and harmful attack on women's health that will most surely lead to further incendiary rhetoric and who knows what else.

Committee and policy debates over legislation is the job of the U.S. Congress, but taxpayer funded witch hunts with no basis in fact are not. As a result, to continue would only further underscore the political nature of this stunt. I urge you to disband the Select Panel and instead focus on meaningful policy that protects women's access to health care, expands access to contraceptives and works to decrease the number of unplanned pregnancies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Castor".

Kathy Castor
United States Representative
Florida – District 14