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Planned Parenthood Mourns Dr. George Tiller

Statement by Peter B. Brownlie
President/CEO

All of us at Planned Parenthood of Kansas & Mid-Missouri are horrified, angry and deeply saddened at the murder of Dr. George Tiller this morning. Our hearts and our prayers go out to Dr. Tiller's wife, his children and other family members, to his brave and dedicated staff and to the thousands of women who have benefited from Dr. Tiller's compassionate and dedicated care.

Dr. Tiller's murder is an enormous loss for our movement and for women and their families across America. He provided abortions to women late in their pregnancy and under some of the most difficult medical circumstances. Dr. Tiller had been harassed by abortion opponents for much of his career – his clinic was burned down, he was shot in both arms by an abortion protestor, and he was recently targeted for investigation by Phill Kline in Kansas, with a jury acquittal coming just a few months ago. None of this stopped George Tiller from his commitment to providing women and their families with abortion care that others were unwilling to offer.

Planned Parenthood's paramount concerns, as always, are the safety of our staff and patients. We're grateful law enforcement has a suspect in custody. Nevertheless, our security staff is working closely with law enforcement personnel and is taking all appropriate steps to secure our sites.

We will miss Dr. Tiller as a friend and colleague and as a colleague dedicated to serving women and families.

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Planned Parenthood is a vital resource for our community and for women and families throughout Kansas and Missouri. We are a trusted source of health care and education for thousands of women, men, and children. For more than 70 years, women have relied on Planned Parenthood to keep themselves and their families safe and healthy.