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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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***Planned Parenthood Representatives Speak Out  
on Today's Kansas Supreme Court Hearing  
and Potential Consequences for Women and Medical Privacy***

**Who:** Peter Brownlie, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri  
Helene Krasnoff, Attorney, Planned Parenthood Federation of America

**Where :** Topeka, KS  
State Capitol Building - South Steps

**When:** Thursday, September 8, 2005  
3:00 PM CST

**Statement by Peter Brownlie, President/CEO**

TOPEKA, KANSAS — On Thursday, September 8, 2005, the Kansas Supreme Court will hear arguments in Comprehensive Health's appeal to protect the covenant between a doctor and his or her patient -- a covenant of privacy that all citizens expect and deserve.

Comprehensive Health of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri and Women's Health Care of Wichita are fighting to protect dozens of confidential patient records that have been subpoenaed as part of an "inquisition" (K.S.A Chapter 22) pursued by anti-choice Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline. We have appealed to the Kansas Supreme Court to safeguard the information, the women and their medical privacy. The Court will hear oral arguments on the appeal at 1:30 p.m. on September 8th. Lee Thompson, of the Thompson Law Firm in Wichita [and a former U.S. Attorney for Kansas], will argue for the clinics.

The subpoenas, prepared by Attorney General Kline's office and issued by a Topeka court in September 2004, ordered Comprehensive Health and Women's Health Care to hand over dozens of complete medical records of abortion patients, including identifying information and full medical and sexual histories. We first sought in the lower court to protect our patients' identities and any medical information not relevant to the investigation. When our requests were denied, we appealed to the Supreme Court.

Comprehensive Health is a trusted provider of high quality reproductive health care and fully complies with the law. We share the goal of protecting children and young women from abuse and of ensuring compliance with Kansas abortion law. Comprehensive Health's health care providers consistently cooperate with law enforcement to provide compassionate care to sexual assault survivors and to report suspected abuse.

We respect the responsibility of the Attorney General to investigate alleged crimes. We only insist, when sensitive and highly personal medical information is involved, that he use the least intrusive means possible to do so. Investigate us, if he must; we have nothing to hide. He doesn't have the right to invade the privacy and confidentiality of women who are not subjects of the investigation.

It's increasingly clear that Attorney General Kline is mounting an all-out assault on the rights of women and men to make their own decisions in the most private and personal areas of their lives, free from intrusion by politicians.

Attorney General Kline's recent suit against the Governor to block Medicaid clients from lifesaving care makes his objective more apparent. He clearly intends to deny women access to abortion, even to save their lives. Little wonder that he is willing to violate a woman's privacy to pursue his extreme political agenda.

The Attorney General says the women whose records he is seeking are not the targets of his investigation. It is increasingly clear, however, that they and thousands of other women are the targets of his assault.

No woman wants the Attorney General, a judge or anyone else not of her choosing to pry through her medical record and all the confidential, sensitive information it contains. Patients entrust the privacy and safe-keeping of their medical information to their doctors. Comprehensive Health cannot and will not violate this trust to serve the political agenda of the Attorney General. We will do everything we can to protect the medical privacy of women, including those who seek abortion care.

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