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Grand Jury Concludes Investigation and Clears Planned Parenthood *Comprehensive Health Remains Dedicated to Providing Confidential Health Care Services*

Overland Park, KS – Comprehensive Health of Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri (PPKM) has been cleared of any criminal wrongdoing, this time by the citizen grand jury in Johnson County. PPKM commends the grand jury for their time and effort throughout the investigation and trusts this decision will give the people of Kansas renewed confidence in the justice system.

“We appreciate the diligence shown by the 15 citizens who devoted three months of their lives to ensuring justice,” stated Peter Brownlie, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood of Kansas & Mid-Missouri. “For nearly 75 years, Planned Parenthood has been a vital resource for our community. This encouraging outcome affirms that we are a trusted source of health care and education for thousands of women and families. We hope that the Grand Jury’s fair-minded evaluation of the evidence will put an end to the politically motivated attacks on reproductive health care in Kansas.”

The grand jury was convened in December 2007, after a coalition of extremist anti-choice groups led a petition process. During a three month investigation, Planned Parenthood provided the 15-member grand jury with all the information that it sought for its investigation and did so while fully protecting patient privacy and confidentiality. “Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri has an ironclad commitment to protecting patient privacy,” stated Brownlie. The grand jury voted to end any further requests or examination into patient records, according to retired Judge Larry McClain, Special Counsel to the Grand Jury.

“The grand jury’s decision validates our contention throughout that we had nothing to fear from this investigation,” said Brownlie. “Planned Parenthood cooperated fully with this investigation and we are very pleased that the health, safety, and security of our patients remained a top priority during this process.

Unfortunately, the battle is not over for PPKM or Kansas women. Still pending are the 107 criminal charges filed by Johnson County District Attorney Phill Kline against Comprehensive Health. The next hearing on that matter is in early April.

“Instead of intimidating and harassing health care providers and their patients, hardliners who oppose abortion should link arms with the women’s health community to focus on real solutions that prevent unintended pregnancy, like affordable birth control and comprehensive sex education in schools,” Brownlie concluded.

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Our Mission: To ensure that every individual has the knowledge, opportunity and freedom to make informed private decisions about reproductive and sexual health

