



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Executive Department

Executive Directive 1 (2014)

DIRECTING THE BOARD OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A PERIODIC REVIEW OF REGULATIONS GOVERNING LICENSURE OF ABORTION FACILITIES, 12VAC5-412

The health of all residents of the Commonwealth is a top priority of my administration. Of great importance are the delivery of services and the provision of safe, medically and environmentally sound facilities to support Virginia's comprehensive system of care. A significant focus of our state's system of health care is on the wellbeing of women in Virginia, and those health issues and conditions "unique to or more prevalent among women." Code of Virginia §32.1-2.

In 2013, the Board of Health promulgated regulations governing the licensure, organization and management of abortion facilities. These regulations marked an effort by the Board to comply with legislative enactments addressing the construction and maintenance of abortion facilities previously enacted by the General Assembly. Access to essential health services, including birth control, contraception and preventive care is vitally important to all residents of Virginia, particularly to the women of the Commonwealth. The regulations enacted last year placed unprecedented construction requirements on these facilities, and I am concerned that these new restrictions may negatively impact women's access to necessary health services.

As Governor, I may, at any time, request a periodic review of any regulation promulgated by an agency, and request that the agency advise me whether new regulations should be promulgated, or whether any existing regulations should be amended or repealed.

Accordingly, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth, and pursuant to Article V of the Constitution and the laws of Virginia, I hereby direct the Board of Health, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Resources and the State Health Commissioner, to take the following actions:

- Initiate a periodic review of those regulations promulgated by the Board in 12VAC5-412, et seq. governing abortion facilities and determine whether any new regulations, amendments, or a repeal of all or part of the regulations, is appropriate; and

- Complete the periodic review by no later than October 1, 2014.



Terence R. McAuliffe, Governor

Attest:

Levar M. Stoney, Secretary of the Commonwealth