In just the latest in a string of reprehensible incidents in which abortion and abortion providers deliver substandard care and continue to practice without regard to accepted medical standards, a North Dakota abortionist is being investigated for practicing with an expired license.

Abortionist Tami Lynn Holst Thorndike appears to have valid medical licenses in Colorado and South Dakota, but her North Dakota license expired on June 30, 2010. Thorndike performs abortions at the Red River Women’s Clinic in Fargo, the state’s only abortion clinic.

Tammi Kromenaker, Director of the Red River Women's Clinic, has tried to dismiss concerns, arguing that there was simply an “administrative oversight.”

Practicing medicine without a valid license for nearly 5 months is significantly more than an “administrative oversight.” Such lack of attention to and concern about accepted medical standard is at the heart of the all-too-often substandard care that American women continue to receive at abortion clinics across the nation.

Just a few of this year’s headlines prove the point and have Americans rightly questioning the safety and legitimacy of abortion practice in this country: "Practitioner Pleads Guilty to Manslaughter, Killed Woman in Failed Abortion," "Abortionist Agrees to Suspended License," and "Abortion Clinic Closed After Regulators Find Aborted Baby Parts in Jars"

So, what is being done about this persistent problem?

While virtually every state heavily regulates the provision of veterinary services, only 27 states regulate – to widely-varying degrees – abortion clinics. However, only about a dozen states have implemented comprehensive, abortion-specific regulations mandating standards for clinic staffing and licensing, equipment, sanitary conditions, and pre- and post-operative patient care.

For the sake of American women, every state must, at the earliest opportunity, implement strong, medically-appropriate standards for abortion patient care.

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