

Item #: \_\_\_\_\_

Moved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: Tamisha Draper

Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: Marcy Ingram

RESOLUTION URGING THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION TO REFRAIN FROM RENEWING THE CONTRACT FOR TITLE X SERVICES WITH CHRIST COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES, AND TO PUT THE CONTRACT OUT FOR REBIDDING WITH INDEPENDENT SCORERS. SPONSORED BY COMMISSIONERS JUSTIN FORD AND STEVE MULROY.

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WHEREAS, under the Title X program, federal funding is available to assist low-income women in Shelby County with family planning and related health services, such as contraception, pregnancy testing, STD/HIV detection and treatment, and cervical and breast cancer screening, but forbidding by law the use of any federal monies to fund abortion services;

WHEREAS, for years prior to 2011, these non-abortion, Title X services had been performed competently by Planned Parenthood Greater Memphis Region (PPGMR); and

WHEREAS, because of changes in state law, this contract was taken away from PPGMR by the state and put out for bidding by the County in 2011, with the contract being bid on by PPGMR and Memphis Health Center, and awarded to Christ Community Health Services (CCHS), for one year with optional renewals by the Administration for three years; and

WHEREAS, at this time, legitimate concerns were raised that the selection process had been politicized, in part because of political pressure from state officials in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, since that time, the number of clinic visits performed under the contract has dropped from 700 to 800 per month to 200 to 300 per month, with no corresponding increase in the number of visits to clinics run by the county health department, leading to the fair inference that fewer low-income women in Shelby County are receiving Title X services than had been the case when PPGMR managed the contract; and

WHEREAS, this reduction of clinic visits has persisted for a second year in a row; and

WHEREAS, this reduction represents thousands fewer low-income women each year who receive vital Title X women's health services, which could create not only a greater danger to the women involved, but also a greater danger of STD/HIV

transmission, and a greater danger of unwanted pregnancies, with enormous resulting societal and public health harm to Shelby County; and

WHEREAS, this situation is intolerable;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, that the County Commission respectfully calls upon the County Administration to (1) notify CCHS that it will not be exercising its option to renew the Title X contract for the upcoming fiscal year; (2) immediately put the contract out for rebidding; and (3) evaluate all bids received by having the competing bids scored by a panel of outside, independent medical experts, none of whom work for the Administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this Resolution shall become effective in accordance with the Shelby County Charter, Article II, Section 2.06(B).

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Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.,  
County Mayor

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of County Commission

ADOPTED: \_\_\_\_\_