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## Abortion doctor investigated by congressional panel

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Boulder Local Guide



Dr. Warren Hern is pictured at the Boulder Abortion Clinic in 2015. (File photo)

A Boulder doctor among the few in the profession who performs late-term abortions is being investigated by a congressional panel that he alleges is a ruse by anti-abortion politicians to paint "targets" on the backs of doctors and other medical professionals who provide abortions.

"This is legislative harassment," Dr. Warren Hern said. "When they do this kind of thing — this has been the pattern for decades — they identify doctors to be assassinated."

Hern, who operates the Boulder Abortion Clinic, which opened in 1975, said he was notified of the investigation by the House Select Investigative Panel on Infant Lives about a week before the Nov. 8 election.

According to a letter from Rep. Marsha Blackburn that Hern provided to the Daily Camera, the panel is seeking information on the procurement and transfer of fetal tissue, whether Hern has been paid for tissue and whether he or any of his staff has held positions at an institute that receives such tissue from his clinic.

On Friday, Blackburn was named a member of the team assisting with the transition of President-elect Donald Trump.

The letter also requests information regarding care for an "infant born alive," whether that has ever happened at the clinic, what happened to the infant afterward, the names of any people who cared for the infant and any death certificates or referrals to funeral homes related to the infant.

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Hern said that he hasn't had time to go through the letter point by point and declined to discuss the letter in depth before he has a chance to respond to it, which he said he is in the process of doing.

He wrote in an article for Stat, a medical journalism website, that the panel is demanding information on patients who had pregnancies longer than 22 weeks and is looking for evidence as to whether he is "selling baby body parts."

It is illegal in the United States to profit from the sale of human organs or tissues.

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Blackburn, a Tennessee Republican, could not be immediately reached for comment on Friday. She opposes most fetal tissue research because of its association with abortion, and Hern wrote in the Stat article that she is "the most ferociously anti-abortion member of Congress."

An effort to reach a staff member from the panel was also not successful, but online records indicate the panel was created to gather information and "facts about medical practices of abortion service providers and the business practices of the procurement organizations who sell baby body parts."

The panel was also created to investigate fetal tissue research after the release of surreptitiously recorded videos purporting to show Planned Parenthood officials trying to profit illegally from the sale of such tissue.

"This is a part of an outrageous series of videos that were released last year," Hern said. "They were really quite fraudulent and inflammatory. They were highly edited. It's an attempt to smear physicians and others who offer abortion services."

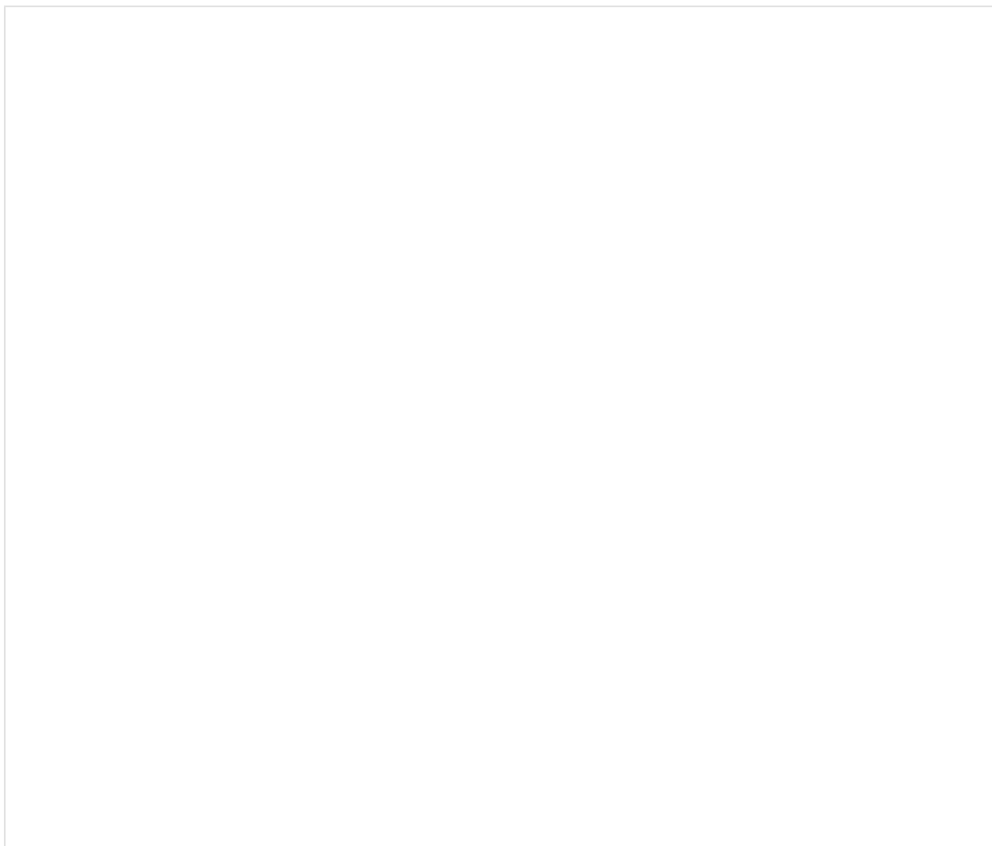
Hern said he believes that the true purpose of entities such as the investigative panel is to out the identities of doctors and other people who work with them to extreme anti-abortion activists and effectively put "targets" on doctors or at the very least intimidate them to the point that they leave the field.

"We've dealt with this stuff for decades," Hern said. "It makes it extremely dangerous for physicians practicing medicine, including abortions."

*The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

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[Rep. Marsha Blackburn letter to Warren Hern](#) by [Matt Sebastian](#) on Scribd



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