



Law called for after 17 fetuses are discovered

By DAWSON BELL
Free Press Lansing Bureau

LANSING -- Antiabortion activists renewed a call Wednesday for legislation requiring cremation or burial of identifiably-human remains of aborted fetuses, citing the apparently legal disposal of 17 fetuses in a Dumpster outside a Lansing abortion clinic.

The remains were retrieved by an activist who lived near the WomensChoice clinic and turned over to law enforcement authorities, said Monica Migliorino Miller, director of Citizens for a Pro-Life Society. Miller and several lawmakers who back the legislation, said at a news conference that they were told by prosecutors for Eaton County and Attorney General Mike Cox last week that, because the fetuses had been treated with formaldehyde, they could be legally disposed of with ordinary trash.

"When you look at these torn and crushed bodies, you're looking at something the human eye is not meant to see," Miller said.

Cox spokeswoman Joy Yearout issued a statement saying a joint investigation with the prosecutor "did not find any violations of the public health code."

Miller said the remains of 17 fetuses with identifiable human features were found in the Dumpster on Feb. 26. Each was in a plastic bag that bore the name of the abortion patient, she said.

Subsequent trash recoveries at the clinic and another in Saginaw owned by the same company revealed multiple paper records containing the names of patients and medical waste, she said.

The statement from Yearout said paper records reviewed "are not of the nature that would be criminally charged" under state law.

State Rep. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, a cosponsor of the legislation, said it would make the improper disposal of identifiably-human, aborted remains a felony.

The Lansing clinic was closed Wednesday. A woman who answered the phone at the Saginaw office said no one was available to comment.

Planned Parenthood of Michigan, which has clinics that provide abortions but is not affiliated with the Lansing clinic, said in a statement that it "strictly adheres to those laws" for medical waste.

Contact Dawson Bell: 517-372-8661 or
dbell@f-reepress.com