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September 23, 2015

Andrew Kruse
Vice President of Mission Integration
Genesys Health System
One Genesys Parkway
Grand Blanc, MI 48439

Re: Refusal to Allow Medically Necessary Tubal Ligation for Brain Tumor Patient

Dear Mr. Kruse:

We are writing in response to your decision on September 21, 2015, to continue denying Jessica Mann with the physician-recommended medical care that she requires at your facility solely for religious reasons. Your decision did not explain why Mrs. Mann does not qualify for the medical exception to Genesys' tubal sterilization ban that has been granted to other patients. Accordingly, we request that you immediately provide detailed reasons about why Mrs. Mann's condition, wherein her brain tumor places her at high risk of death in the event of a subsequent pregnancy, is not sufficiently serious to warrant this exception. Mrs. Mann is expected to deliver in less than four weeks and it is important that she understand precisely why at this late stage of her pregnancy, your hospital is refusing to provide her with the treatment that she needs.

Until it implemented a policy banning tubal sterilizations on November 1, 2014, Genesys provided its pregnant patients with medically appropriate treatment. Within a time span of less than a year, Genesys has transformed from being a hospital that pregnant women could rely on to obtain safe treatment to one that intentionally places such women in harm's way. Mrs. Mann has been a patient of Genesys for several years and delivered two other children at that hospital. She did not suspect that with fewer than four weeks remaining on her pregnancy, and while she is suffering from a serious medical condition, that the hospital would deny her critical medical care. Nor did she suspect that one of the largest healthcare systems in the country, Ascension Health, would enshrine this denial in official hospital policy. This discrimination by your hospital is not only unlawful, it is intentional and callous. We seriously hope that you will reconsider your decision by this Friday, September 25, 2015. Failure to do so will result in Mrs. Mann and the ACLU of Michigan seeking full investigation of your acts of medical negligence and discrimination with the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and the Michigan Department of Civil Rights, and, possibly, court intervention.

Very truly yours,

Brooke A. Tucker, Esq.
Staff Attorney, ACLU of Michigan

