I STAND WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD®

Fight Back Activation Kit

12/2016

Planned Parenthood®
Act. No matter what.

Planned Parenthood Action Fund

Extreme politicians are trying to defund and shut down Planned Parenthood health centers, and it would have a devastating impact on women and health care if they succeed.

Planned Parenthood, with the support of a majority of Americans, will be fighting to keep its doors open.

Top Four Talking Points On The Fight Ahead For Planned Parenthood

1. **I'm very concerned that extreme politicians (led by Mike Pence and Tom Price) are trying to defund and shut down Planned Parenthood health centers.** This is the biggest threat to women's health in the 100 years that Planned Parenthood has been providing health care. We need to make sure that President-elect Trump and those around him understand the importance of Planned Parenthood and don't get railroaded by these anti-Planned Parenthood extremists.

2. **If these politicians succeed, it would be a national health disaster and devastate care.** Every year, 2.5 million people rely on Planned Parenthood for high quality, affordable health care – including cancer screenings, birth control, STD and HIV testing and treatment, and other care. Women, men, and young people are all at risk of losing their health care if efforts to defund Planned Parenthood succeed.

3. **For many people, Planned Parenthood is their only source of health care.** Millions of people – nearly half of whom are people of color, and many people who live in rural areas – would lose the care they rely on. More than half of Planned Parenthood's health centers are in rural or underserved communities. Without Planned Parenthood many patients would have nowhere else to go for lifesaving and life-empowering care.

4. **The American people overwhelmingly support Planned Parenthood and strongly oppose these attacks.** Fifteen separate nationwide polls and nine polls in political swing states show strong favorability for Planned Parenthood and strong opposition to defunding efforts. The American people do not want – and did not vote for President-elect Trump – to see their health care stripped away. 48% of Trump's own supporters do not want to see Planned Parenthood defunded.

Four Questions You Can Expect

Q: What's the urgency? Trump hasn't explicitly called for defunding Planned Parenthood.

A: Republicans in Congress are plotting to use the ACA repeal bill (through a budget process called "reconciliation") to ram through a provision that would "defund" and likely close hundreds of Planned Parenthood health centers – cutting off millions of low-income patients that rely on Planned Parenthood for services like birth control, cancer screenings, and STD testing & treatment. This bill could be introduced in Congress as early as January – even before President-elect Trump is inaugurated.

We need to make sure that President-elect Trump and those around him understand the importance of Planned Parenthood and don't get railroaded by these anti-Planned Parenthood extremists. **Vice President-elect Mike Pence** and **HHS Secretary nominee Tom Price** have been on a crusade against Planned Parenthood for nearly a decade – even though it means over a million women each year won't have access to lifesaving care.

- **Vice President-elect Mike Pence** was the first member of Congress to ever author and introduce federal legislation to "defund" Planned Parenthood, and as governor of Indiana he signed into law some of the most extreme abortion restrictions in the country.

- **HHS Secretary nominee Tom Price** has repeatedly voted to defund Planned Parenthood, and has supported 65 attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Q: Does taxpayer money pay for abortions at Planned Parenthood?

A: To be perfectly clear, federal law (the Hyde Amendment) already prohibits government funding for abortion, except in cases of rape or incest, or to save a woman's life. But anti-abortion groups and politicians in a number of states have sought to ban any public payments to any providers who offer abortion, even for unrelated health services, such as birth control or well-woman exams. State courts have ruled against such restrictions, specifically for Medicaid reimbursements, citing the legal right of low-income beneficiaries to seek care where they choose. *(See: NYT, 12/14/16)*

The Hyde Amendment is particularly harmful to low-income women, women of color, young people and immigrants – who disproportionately rely on Medicaid for their health care coverage.

Q: How do Title X and Medicaid reimbursements work at Planned Parenthood?

A: There is no item in the budget labeled "Planned Parenthood." Contrary to what the word implies, "defunding" Planned Parenthood doesn't mean the government will be left with a pile of money it can just give to other providers – though that is precisely what congressional Republicans have promised to do. *(See: Mic, 12/14/16)*

1.5 million people access health care at Planned Parenthood health centers through publicly funded programs such as Medicaid or Title X.

Planned Parenthood serves patients in the Medicaid program, providing quality health care to millions who otherwise may have difficulty accessing critical services such as cancer screenings, HIV tests, birth control, and well-woman visits.

Millions of women with low incomes would lose the health insurance they have gained through the ACA's Medicaid expansion. In 2015, Medicaid covered 17% of women ages 19-64 (16.66 million), up from 10% in 2008 (pre-ACA).

Planned Parenthood is also able to serve patients through Title X, the national family planning program, a successful federal program that serves millions of Americans. We know that for every $1 spent on family planning, taxpayers save $7.

Funding for Title X family-planning programs typically goes directly to states, which then distribute grants among health care providers seeking funds to cover low- and no-cost health services, such as birth control and potentially lifesaving well-woman exams. *(See: NYT, 12/14/16)*

Q: Can't other providers just absorb Planned Parenthood's patient base?

A: The idea that other providers could absorb Planned Parenthood's patients has been resoundingly dismissed by experts. In fact, the American Public Health Association called the idea "ludicrous."

Six in 10 women who access care from a family planning health center consider Planned Parenthood their main source of health care. For many patients across the country, Planned Parenthood health centers are the only places they can turn to for reproductive health care. More than half of Planned Parenthood's health centers are in rural and underserved communities. Without Planned Parenthood, many patients would have nowhere else to go for care.

"'**More women could lose access to reproductive healthcare** if Congress strips funding from Title X or Planned Parenthood,' said Georges Benjamin, executive director of the American Public Health Association.... 'Transferring family planning money from one health provider to others isn't as simple as it sounds,' said Benjamin, who called the proposal 'ludicrous.'"

–Family planning budgets in crisis...
By Liz Szabo and Laura Ungar, USA TODAY

"Although proponents of closing Planned Parenthood argue that other providers would be easily able to fill the hole torn in the safety net, credible evidence suggests this is unlikely. In some areas, Planned Parenthood is **the sole safety-net provider of contraceptive care.** And even where there are other safety-net providers, they, on average, serve far fewer contraceptive clients than do sites operated by Planned Parenthood."

– Quantifying Planned Parenthood's Critical Role In Meeting The Need For Publicly Supported Contraceptive Care
By Jennifer Frost and Kinsey Hasstedt

Facts & Stats On Planned Parenthood Services And Support

Millions of women, men, and young people rely on Planned Parenthood health centers each year – for many of them Planned Parenthood is the only health care provider they see.

- 1.5 million people access health care at Planned Parenthood health centers through publicly funded programs like Medicaid or Title X.
- More than half of Planned Parenthood health centers are in rural or underserved areas.
- In 21 percent of counties with a Planned Parenthood health center, Planned Parenthood is the only safety-net family planning provider.

Those hurt the most would be those struggling to get by and those who already face barriers to accessing health care – especially people of color, LGBTQ people, people with low incomes, and people who live in rural areas.

- Seventy-five percent of Planned Parenthood patients have incomes at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).
- Many people of color – who already face too many systemic barriers in accessing health care – rely on Planned Parenthood for quality, affordable health care.
  - In 2014, 15 percent of Planned Parenthood patients were Black – more than 360,000 people.
  - In 2014, 23 percent of Planned Parenthood patients were Latino – more than 575,000 people.

Fifteen separate national polls and four polls in political swing states show strong favorability for Planned Parenthood and strong opposition to defunding efforts.

- Nearly 60% of all voters said they do not support defunding Planned Parenthood.
- 48% of Trump's own supporters do not want to see Planned Parenthood defunded.

Defunding Planned Parenthood could cause an increase in cancer and pregnancy related deaths, unintended pregnancies, STDs, and HIV.

- A new study from the journal *Obstetrics and Gynecology* revealed the rate of pregnancy-related deaths in Texas has nearly doubled since 2010 – coinciding with stringent funding cuts for women's health care and

An estimated **one in five** women in this country will rely on Planned Parenthood in her lifetime.

Every year, **2.5 million** people go to Planned Parenthood for high quality, affordable health care, including cancer screenings, birth control, and annual well-woman exams.

And Planned Parenthood provides educational programs and outreach to **1.5 million** young people and parents in communities every year.

defunding Planned Parenthood. Black women accounted for nearly 29 percent of all maternal deaths, even though they gave birth to only 11 percent of all babies.

- After Kansas defunded Planned Parenthood, the number of people accessing birth control, cancer screenings, STI tests, well-woman exams, and other care through the Title X program fell by more than 14,000.

- A recent study in the *New England Journal of Medicine* showed that blocking patients from going to Planned Parenthood in Texas was associated with a 35% decline in women in publicly funded programs using the most effective methods of birth control.

- Blocking patients from care at health centers has a disproportionate impact on communities of color, who already face systemic barriers in accessing quality health care. For example, in Texas, researchers found that more than half of women reported at least one barrier to reproductive health care. Spanish-speaking women from Mexico were more likely to report three or more barriers.

This isn't the first nor will it be the last time Planned Parenthood comes under attack. Patients, supporters, and volunteers have stood by the organization for 100 years – and they're standing strong today.

- Planned Parenthood Saved Me: After the Komen Foundation pulled its funding to Planned Parenthood in 2012, hundreds of people submitted their stories of how Planned Parenthood saved them. For the giant, beloved Komen brand – in minutes/days – everything changed.

  – *LA Times*: Susan G. Komen Foundation discovers the price of playing politics: "[W]ith its release of its latest financial statements, the cost of that decision [halting grants to Planned Parenthood] can be measured: It's more than $77 million, or fully 22% of the foundation's income."
  – "Since the controversy, the foundation has struggled to regain the nearly unquestioned public support it once had."

Media Clips & Background Reading

Vogue: **Planned Parenthood: Donald Trump and a Republican Congress Will Defund Us "At Their Peril"**

"It's an uncertain time for Planned Parenthood: Trump has promised to defund the nonprofit, which provides health care to 2.5 million Americans each year. Vice President-elect Pence has a vendetta against the organization, repeatedly attempting to block federal funds to it. And the Republican-controlled Congress wields the power to pass a bill that would cut Planned Parenthood's federal funding by up to $500 million dollars – 40-percent of its budget – when a new session begins next month.

"That would be a devastating blow to Planned Parenthood's health care services, approximately three percent of which are abortions, compared to more than 80 percent focused on birth control, cancer screenings, and STI testing. And, according to the videos of focus groups conducted with Trump voters who said they supported Planned Parenthood that were shared with the media, defunding the 600-plus health care centers across the country could also devastate Trump's cred as a Washington outsider and a champion of average Americans.

"'I'd be disappointed if he signed it,' a middle-aged male Trump supporter in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, said. 'He'd be making sure that Congress is on his side, but he doesn't care about us that voted for him – and a lot of women voted for him.' Another male Trump supporter echoed that denying affordable health care to those who need it would be out of sync with Trump's populist message: 'If he doesn't sign it, it's going to make a big statement that he's fighting for the little ones.'

Asked to sum up their thoughts on the potential defunding of Planned Parenthood in one word, Trump voters in the focus groups said they'd be 'surprised,' 'sad,' 'concerned,' 'disappointed,' 'let down,' and 'pissed off as hell.'"

Washington Post: **Defunding Planned Parenthood could be the GOP's first big defeat of the new year (opinion)**

"For now I want to focus on just one of those actions: defunding Planned Parenthood. This is going to be one of the first items on the Republican agenda, not because the leadership necessarily relishes having a fight over it, but because Republican activists are already demanding it, and they will not be denied. This is likely to be big trouble for Republicans – indeed, it could be their first major legislative defeat next year.

"Just to clarify, 'defunding' Planned Parenthood has nothing to do with abortion, because federal funds can't go to abortion services. The funds in question are mostly Medicaid reimbursements: a woman on Medicaid goes to a Planned Parenthood clinic for a gynecological exam, a cancer screening, or some other health service, and Medicaid pays the bill. What Republicans want to do is bar women on Medicaid from getting their health care from Planned Parenthood. They passed such a provision last year, and President Obama vetoed it."

***Mic:* Congress wants to defund Planned Parenthood ASAP. In Trump's America, that's very scary.**

> "Ultimately, if the government decides to cut PPFA's Title X funding and stop reimbursing the organization for Medicaid patients, it means many people with low incomes – primarily women of color – will be out of luck if they need any number of the services Planned Parenthood provides other than abortion.
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> "That means patients who rely on government programs could lose access to cancer screenings (of which the organization provides at least 270,000 annually, according to a spokesman), STI tests or treatment (more than 4.2 million annually), breast exams (over 360,000 annually), birth control and related services (more than 2.9 million annually), and more. The reason won't be because PPFA will necessarily have to shut down clinics without government funding; it'll more likely have to turn away patients who can't pay."

***New York Times:* Obama Administration Bars States From Withholding Federal Money From Planned Parenthood**

> "'This rule will strengthen access to essential services like cancer screenings and contraception for some of the most vulnerable patients in this country,' Dr. Karen A. Scott, chief medical officer at the Department of Health and Human Services, said in a statement. Dr. Scott added that 'public comments showed overwhelming support for finalizing the rule' – 91 percent of the roughly 145,000 responses received since September, according to department officials."

Cecile Richards statement: Obama Administration Protects Access to Health Care for Millions of People

> "President Obama has cemented his legacy as a champion for women's health. This rule protects birth control, cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, and other health care for millions of people. Yet this fight is not over. We are deeply concerned about the future of health care access in this country with extremists like Mike Pence and Tom Price at the helm."

Additional resources:

- Fact Sheet: **The Urgent Need for Planned Parenthood Health Centers**
- Fact Sheet: **Polling Memo on public support for Planned Parenthood**
- Infographic illustrating Planned Parenthood's services and reach: **Who We Are**
- *PopSugar* video: **How Defunding Planned Parenthood Would Impact You**
- *ATTN* video: **Defunding Planned Parenthood would strip access to vital health care for hundreds of thousands**
- PPFA Tumblr post: **7 Things You Can Do to Help Planned Parenthood and the Communities We Serve**
- Cecile Richards blog post: **Cecile Richards on the New Administration: "We Will Stand Together – and We Won't Go Back"**
- Planned Parenthood patient video: **We Are Planned Parenthood**
- Planned Parenthood patient video: **Planned Parenthood Saved My Life**
- Planned Parenthood patient video: **A Grateful Mom**
- Planned Parenthood patient video: **Let's Talk About Sex**
- Planned Parenthood patient video: **A Spiritual Patient**
- Planned Parenthood patient video: **An Underserved Community**
- Planned Parenthood patient video: **Courtney's story**