

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
1233 Longworth House Office Building.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
House Minority Leader  
233 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

January 17, 2017

Dear Senate Majority Leader McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and House Minority Leader Pelosi,

The more than 130 undersigned organizations stand united in support of Planned Parenthood and the millions of women, men, and young people who rely on Planned Parenthood health centers every day. We oppose any attempt to block patients from accessing the high-quality, affordable health care that Planned Parenthood provides.

In 2014, Planned Parenthood health centers served 2.5 million patients, providing over 4 million sexually transmitted infection (STI) tests and treatment, 360,000 breast exams, 270,000 Pap tests, and birth control for 2 million people. One in five women has visited a Planned Parenthood health center for care in her lifetime, and many rely on Planned Parenthood as their primary health care provider. These health centers play a critical role in providing access to primary and preventive care to many people for whom it would be otherwise inaccessible. Seventy-five percent of Planned Parenthood's patients have incomes at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level, and more than half of Planned Parenthood's 650 health centers are located in rural or medically underserved areas.

The current defunding effort is the latest phase in a long-discredited smear campaign against Planned Parenthood premised entirely upon highly edited and misleading videos which alleged wrongdoing by Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers. Since the release of those deceptive videos, these allegations have been investigated extensively and rejected by multiple congressional committees and 13 different state investigations, which have found no evidence of wrongdoing. In fact, a Texas grand jury tasked with investigating Planned Parenthood instead indicted the makers of these falsified videos.<sup>1</sup> An additional eight states decided not to open an investigation at all, citing the lack of credible evidence.<sup>2</sup> After a year and a half of exhaustive investigation, it is clear that there are no facts or evidence to support blocking Medicaid patients from accessing one of the nation's leading providers of high-quality, affordable care. Rather,

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<sup>1</sup> Manny Fernandez, "2 Abortion Foes Behind Planned Parenthood Videos Are Indicted," *The New York Times*, Jan. 25, 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/26/us/2-abortion-foes-behind-planned-parenthood-videos-are-indicted.html>.

<sup>2</sup> *The Planned Parenthood witch hunt*, WASH. POST, Feb. 20, 2016, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-planned-parenthood-witch-hunt/2016/02/20/a6cb0e5c-d660-11e5-b195-2e29a4e13425\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-planned-parenthood-witch-hunt/2016/02/20/a6cb0e5c-d660-11e5-b195-2e29a4e13425_story.html).

this defunding campaign is part of the broader agenda to restrict access to safe, legal abortion and other reproductive health care.

There is no doubt that if this attack succeeds, many patients will lose access to a range of basic preventive health care services, including birth control, STI and cancer screenings, and other lifesaving care—and low-income families will be hit hardest. If Congress were to block all Medicaid patients from seeking care at Planned Parenthood health centers, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that 390,000 women would lose access and up to 650,000 women could face reduced access to preventive care within a year.<sup>3</sup> Many of the organizations signing this letter work on behalf of those who rely on Planned Parenthood’s compassionate, high-quality care and know how important it is that it continues to be available to those who need it. We stand behind Planned Parenthood’s dedication to assisting their patients and advocating for women throughout the country.

We write in support of the millions of patients who could lose access to vital care if Planned Parenthood health centers are forced to close their doors. This politically motivated attack on Planned Parenthood is an attack on the ability of women, men, and young people to make personal health decisions, including whether and when to become parents. It is an attack on the well-being and economic security of those who are already most in need. We urge you to stand with us and oppose any attempt to block patients from seeking care at Planned Parenthood.

Sincerely,

30 for 30 Campaign  
9to5, National Association of Working Women  
A Better Balance  
A is For  
Abortion Care Network  
AccessMatters  
Advocates for Youth  
African American Ministers In Action  
AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts  
Alliance for Justice  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Medical Student Association  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
Anti-Defamation League  
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals  
Atlanta Women for Equality  
Atlanta Women's Center  
AVAC  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
BiNet USA

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<sup>3</sup> CBO. (2015, September 16). “Cost Estimate: H.R. 3134 Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015.” Washington, DC: CBO, <https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/114th-congress-2015-2016/costestimate/hr3134.pdf>

Black Women's Health Imperative  
Business and Professional Women of Florida  
Business and Professional Women/St. Petersburg-Pinellas  
Catholics for Choice  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
Cherry Hill Women's Center  
Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program  
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights (COLOR)  
Communications Workers of America  
Delaware County Women's Center  
Disciples Justice Action Network  
Emergency Medical Assistance, Inc.  
Emergency Medical Association, INC  
EMILY's List  
Equality for HER  
Family Equality Council  
Feminist Majority Foundation  
FORGE, Inc.  
Forward Together  
Gender Justice  
Gender Spectrum  
Genders & Sexualities Alliance Network (GSA Network)  
Girls Inc.  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality  
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.  
Hartford GYN Center  
Human Rights Campaign  
Human Rights Watch  
Ibis Reproductive Health  
Institute for Science and Human Values  
International Women's Health Coalition  
Ipas  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Social Policy Action Network (JSPAN)  
Jewish Women International (JWI)  
Jewish Women's Foundation of New York  
John Snow, Inc. (JSI)  
Lady Parts Justice League  
Lambda Legal  
Lilith Fund  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Maine Women's Lobby  
MergerWatch

Methodist Federation for Social Action  
Movement Advancement Project  
NA'AMAT USA  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Abortion Federation  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Law Program  
National Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Network of Abortion Funds  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Women's Health Network  
National Women's Law Center  
NMAC  
Nursing Students for Sexual & Reproductive Health  
Our Bodies Ourselves  
PAI  
Pathfinder International  
People For the American Way  
PFLAG National  
Philadelphia Women's Center  
Physicians for Reproductive Health  
Population Connection Action Fund  
Population Institute  
Positive Women's Network - USA  
Pride at Work  
Pro-Choice Resources  
Public Justice Center  
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need  
Religious Institute  
Reproductive Health Access Project  
Secular Coalition for America  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)  
SisterLove, Inc.  
SisterReach  
SisterSong: National Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective  
SiX Action  
Southwest Women's Law Center

The American Medical Student Association  
The Breeding Ground  
The Interfaith Alliance of Colorado  
The National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
The Sea Change Program  
The Voter Participation Center  
Transgender Law Center  
UltraViolet  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation  
United We Dream  
Urban Justice Center  
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity  
Voices for Progress  
Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO  
West Fund  
Western States Center  
Witness to Mass Incarceration  
Women Donors Network  
Women for Women  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Women's Law Project  
Women's Medical Fund, PA  
Women's Voices Women Vote Action Fund