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Reject Attempts to Prohibit Planned Parenthood From Participating in Federal Programs

A small group of members of Congress have made their agenda for this country abundantly clear: target women's health care programs and women's health providers under the guise of deficit reduction.

Rep. Mike Pence's (R-IN) proposal to exclude Planned Parenthood from **all** critical public health funding programs will only hurt Americans — taking away health care that millions of women receive today. Rep. Pence's proposal is an unprecedented, ideological attack on a specific health care provider that will result in more women losing access to the very basic health care they need. **That's why we urge Congress to reject this dangerous proposal.**

Poll after poll has shown that Americans support the work of Planned Parenthood health centers. In fact, a recent CNN poll shows that 65 percent of Americans support federal funding for Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood Health Centers Are Critical Access Points for Women Now and in the Future

In each of the past three Congresses, Rep. Pence has introduced bills that prohibit Title X family planning funding from going to health care providers that separately provide abortion care with private funds, as well as bills that specifically target Planned Parenthood health centers. This year, Rep. Pence has intensified his agenda against Planned Parenthood with a proposal that would eliminate **all** federal funding for Planned Parenthood health centers.

This provision will now be offered as a stand-alone bill — H. Con. Res. 36, which is sponsored by Rep. Diane Black (R-TN) and Rep. Martha Roby (R-AL)

Six in 10 women who access care from women's health centers like Planned Parenthood health centers consider these health centers to be their main source of health care. Pence's proposal would cut millions of women off from their source of primary and preventive care. For instance, Pence's proposal would cut off the approximately 1.4 million Medicaid patients served by Planned Parenthood from their source of health care.

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Planned Parenthood Plays a Critical Role in Providing Health Care to Low-Income Americans

Planned Parenthood's health centers provide primary and preventive health care to three million Americans each year. For many women, and especially those in rural areas and underserved communities, Planned Parenthood is their only source of health care. In fact, seventy-three percent of Planned Parenthood health centers are in a rural or medically underserved area.

One in five American women has received health care from Planned Parenthood at some point in her life. As a result of the Pence amendment, many of these women would face tremendous difficulty finding other health care providers able to the deliver the high-quality family planning and preventive care that Planned Parenthood offers, placing them at risk of unintended pregnancy and life-threatening diseases.

Attacks on Planned Parenthood Undermine Women's Access to the Health Care They Need

Planned Parenthood health centers are able to stretch scarce resources to provide health care to millions of low-income and uninsured individuals each year. More than 90 percent of the health care Planned Parenthood centers offer each year is preventive. For decades, a number of different federal agencies have recognized the high-quality and high-value services that patients receive at Planned Parenthood health centers and, therefore, have entrusted Planned Parenthood health centers with funding through the following programs:

Medicaid
Title X (family planning program)
Maternal and Child Health Block Grants
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Grants to prevent and
treat sexually transmitted infections and screen for breast and cervical cancer
Social Services Block Grants
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, among others

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It is through the support of these federal programs that Planned Parenthood health centers are able to offer, on an annual basis, nearly one million lifesaving screenings for cervical cancer, 830,000 breast exams, contraception to nearly 2.5 million patients, nearly four million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and education programs for nearly 1.2 million individuals, among other important preventive services. Rep. Pence's proposal to eliminate all of this funding for Planned Parenthood health centers would immediately sever a key component of our health care system infrastructure and deny women access to the health care they need.

Attacks on Planned Parenthood Cut Off Medicaid Patients from Their Provider — Undermining the Goals of the Health Care Law

Forty-eight percent (approximately 1.4 million) of Planned Parenthood's patients are on Medicaid, and as a direct result of the Pence amendment, they would lose access to their health care provider.

This attack on Medicaid patients' ability to see their provider comes at a time when the Medicaid program desperately needs more health care providers to participate in the program — as existing access issues will only become exasperated as a result of the Medicaid expansion to 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, eight million women of reproductive age (15-44) are likely to become newly eligible for the Medicaid expansion under health reform, and they will look Planned Parenthood to access primary and preventive care under the program.

Offering Americans health insurance while simultaneously cutting them off from their health care provider would render ACA expansions in Medicaid coverage meaningless. Now is the time to be supporting the role that women's health centers like Planned Parenthood play in communities across the country — not undermining women's main source of health care at the time that they will need it most.

Investing in commonsense, proven effective prevention and primary health care is not only smart health care policy, but smart politics. In the face of our nation's current health care crisis, Congress must protect women's access to the cancer screenings, well-woman exams, and birth control that Planned Parenthood provides.

Instead of focusing on the issues Americans are most concerned about, some House Republicans are targeting women's health care programs and women's health providers under the guise of deficit reduction.

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Talking Points on Protecting Women's Health Programs & Providers

Overview of Attacks on Women's Health Programs & Women's Health Providers

These proposals do nothing to reduce the deficit, they will actually result in job losses, and they will cut off millions of American women from their only source of primary and preventive care.

In fact, they represent the most politically driven assault on women's health in American history.

Attacks on Planned Parenthood

Any proposal to exclude Planned Parenthood and other family planning clinics from critical public health funding streams will hurt Americans — taking away health care that millions of women receive today.

The bill, H. Con. Res. 36, to prohibit Planned Parenthood from receiving **any** federal funds is unconscionable. That means millions of American women will no longer have access to family planning, HIV testing and counseling, health care to prevent infertility, and breast and cervical cancer screening. Likewise, communities across the country would lose their main provider of evidenced-based sex education, including information about abstinence. Without a doubt, this amendment would have a devastating impact on communities across the country.

This is clearly a coordinated, highly political effort designed to undermine one of our nation's largest women's health care providers — with dangerous implications for women and families across the country.

Access to the family planning keeps women and children healthy. Studies have shown that when women have better access to family planning, it leads to healthier outcomes for both mother and child. When women plan their pregnancies, they are more likely to seek prenatal care — improving their own health and the health of their children. In fact, access to family planning is directly linked to declines in maternal and infant mortality rates.

This proposal is Rep. Pence's latest — and his most extreme — effort to target Planned Parenthood. In fact, Rep. Pence has offered several amendments and bills over the years targeted at stripping Planned Parenthood of Title X family planning funds. Rep. Pence's latest proposal goes even further by prohibiting Planned Parenthood from receiving any

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This bill would immediately cut off 1.4 million Medicaid patients from their health care provider. Forty-eight percent (approximately 1.4 million) of Planned Parenthood's patients are on Medicaid, and as a direct result of the Pence amendment, they would lose access to their health care provider.

Rep. Pence's proposal comes at a time when provider shortages are especially widespread in the Medicaid program, and as a direct result of this proposal, at least 1.4 million Americans will have a health insurance card, but nowhere to take it. Offering Americans Medicaid coverage while simultaneously cutting them off from their health care provider is simply mean-spirited. With a Medicaid expansion under ACA on the horizon, now is the time to be supporting the role that women's health centers like Planned Parenthood play in communities across the country — not undermining women's main source of health care at the time that they will need it most.

Since the law already requires health care providers to demonstrate that federal funds are not used for abortion, this bill is a clear attempt to cut funding for cancer screenings and contraception at Planned Parenthood health centers.

This effort to take down Planned Parenthood goes way beyond Planned Parenthood itself. It is an assault on all progressive health care, service, and advocacy organizations that aim to provide vital care and services to women and men across this country.

Investing in commonsense, proven, effective prevention and primary health care is not only smart health care policy, but smart politics. In the face of our nation's current health care crisis, Congress must protect funding for the Title X family planning program and for Planned Parenthood health centers.

Planned Parenthood Facts

More than 90 percent of the care Planned Parenthood health centers offer is preventive, and, every year, Planned Parenthood doctors and nurses carry out nearly one million lifesaving screenings for cervical cancer and 830,000 breast exams, and provide contraception to nearly 2.5 million patients and nearly four million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

Planned Parenthood is an invaluable community-based provider and is critical to achieving the goals of improving quality health care in this country, including efforts to improve women's health, lower the rate of unintended pregnancies, and decrease infant mortality.

For many women, especially those in rural areas and other communities with few health care providers, Planned Parenthood is the only source of health care. Many of these women would face tremendous difficulties finding other health care providers able to deliver high-quality reproductive health care, including cancer screenings and family planning services. As a result, many women will be at an increased risk of undetected cancer and unintended pregnancy.

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Planned Parenthood sees one-third of all women accessing preventive services through the Title X program. In some states, Planned Parenthood is the only Title X provider and in many more, Planned Parenthood sees the majority of women who receive services through the Title X program.

For 95 years, Planned Parenthood's doctors, nurses, and other health professionals have been providing health care to millions of women. **In fact, one in four American women voters has received care from a Planned Parenthood health center at some point in her life**.

For more information, please contact the Planned Parenthood Government Relations Department at 202-973-4868.

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