

NORTH COUNTY TIMES

March 12, 2010

In defense of Planned Parenthood

As a member of the board of directors of Planned Parenthood of San Diego and Riverside Counties, I take exception to a recent letter to the editor maligning our work and mission ("Planned Parenthood's diabolical motives," Feb. 20). For more than 90 years, Planned Parenthood has been America's most trusted provider of reproductive health care services and is now one of the nation's leading providers of cervical cancer screenings.

Women who face unintended pregnancy have the legal right to choose abortion, and Planned Parenthood provides a medical setting that is safe and respectful. These services compose 7 percent of our medical practice. No one does more to reduce the rate of abortion than Planned Parenthood. Through our comprehensive contraceptive and family planning services, we avert 600,000 unintended pregnancies every year. These services, coupled with age-appropriate sexuality education, have helped reduce the abortion rate in the United States to historical lows.

Those who oppose a woman's right to choose have every right to their deeply held convictions. We invite them to join us in reducing the abortion rate by working to increase access to contraception and comprehensive sexuality education — the most effective means of reducing the rate of unintended pregnancy.

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