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**Contact:** Mary O'Shea  
216.961.8804 ext 1209

## **Planned Parenthood Calls for Replacement of Anti-Birth Control Hardliner to Head Nation's Family Planning Program**

*Leading Women's Health Organization Calls on Lawmakers to Stop Playing Politics with Women's Health*

Cleveland OH — Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio (PPNEO) today called for the resignation of anti-birth control, anti-sex education hardliner Susan Orr from the position of acting deputy assistant secretary for population affairs (DASPA). President Bush recently appointed Orr to this position, which administers Title X, the nation's family planning program that provides family planning and preventive health care services to more than five million low-income individuals annually, helping prevent more than one million unintended pregnancies each year. PPNEO called on the Bush administration to replace Orr with someone qualified.

"Appointing Susan Orr to run the nation's family planning program makes a mockery of women's health. It's like appointing a chief of police who doesn't believe in fighting crime," said Tara Broderick, President and CEO of PPNEO. "Planned Parenthood believes that the director of our nation's family planning program should support family planning. It's simple common sense."

Orr was formerly a senior director for marriage and family care at the Family Research Council, a political organization that opposes family planning. While in this role, Orr cheered the Bush administration's proposed elimination of the contraceptive coverage requirement from federal employees' health insurance. Orr said of the proposal, "We're quite pleased because fertility is not a disease. It's not a medical necessity that you have [contraception]."

More recently, Orr served as associate commissioner under Wade Horn, former assistant secretary for children and families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Bush administration's point man for abstinence education. Horn oversaw major funding increases to the Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) program, bringing the current total for federally funded abstinence-only-until-marriage education programs to \$176 million per year.

"Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio calls on President Bush to replace Orr with someone qualified for the post," said Broderick. "Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio serves 30,000 Title X clients each year. This appointment threatens the health of the Northeast Ohio's poorest women and should be withdrawn immediately."

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*Planned Parenthood of Northeast Ohio is a recent consolidation of Planned Parenthood of Greater Cleveland, Planned Parenthood of North Central Ohio, Planned Parenthood of Stark County, Planned Parenthood of Summit, Portage and Medina Counties, and Planned Parenthood of the Mahoning Valley. We provide medical services to more than 57,000 people and sexuality education to thousands more in 21 counties.*