



## Despite the turmoil in Washington, PPMM is Here to Stay

Since the 2016 election, we have been on a wild roller coaster ride of intensified efforts in Washington to eliminate federal reimbursements for our services, valiant community rallies to support health care for our patients, and, most recently, a bill narrowly passed by the House of Representatives to repeal the Affordable Care Act and “defund” Planned Parenthood. Though the bill faces difficult hurdles in the Senate, the White House already launched a direct attack on our services in April by rescinding an Obama-administration rule that stopped states from cutting Title X family planning funding for political reasons.

It’s clear that the razor-thin majority of senators who are opposed to reproductive rights – and a larger such majority in the House – continue to pose a serious threat to our services, but there is one thing we want our supporters and patients to be sure of: Planned Parenthood Mar Monte is here to stay.

*PP supporters pinking out across the nation to defend women's health care*

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# Here to Stay



*San Jose rally on Feb 11. Thousands turned out across the US to support Planned Parenthood.*

PPMM has joined with other California affiliates and PPFA as well as with regional partners, funders and supporters to devise a four-pronged plan that will protect our clients and services from being devastated by any policy that would make Planned Parenthood ineligible to receive federal funding. The strategy is to defeat, litigate, delay and mitigate – in that order. (See “Letter from Linda Williams,” pg. 2)

In the meantime, it is important to understand what the misleading term “defund” means. The organization does not receive a giant grant from the federal government. Instead, “defunding” means that Planned Parenthood can’t be reimbursed through the Medicaid system for the millions of essential preventive services it provides throughout the country every year to low-income women, teens and families.

These Medicaid-eligible services range from long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) to STD-testing and treatment to cancer-screenings. The Hyde Amendment already prohibits federal dollars from being used for abortion services.

Although we know the fight to keep our federal funding is far from over, we have been deeply moved and encouraged by the thousands of supporters, donors, patients and volunteers who have showed up at congressional town hall meetings, rallies and marches to stand with Planned Parenthood since the presidential inauguration in January. This has played a crucial role in stalling the repeal of Obamacare.

From Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian declaring, “If Planned Parenthood has a problem, we all have a problem” to a young woman who attended a rally at our Fresno health center because, she said, “Planned Parenthood saved my mother’s life,” we have seen a heroic community uprising in 2017 to protect services for more than 220,000 women, men, teens and children who rely on PPMM every year.

We are grateful that we can count on our new and longtime donors to join with us in harnessing the explosive energy of thousands of people who have had their political awakening this year, sending the message to our opponents in Washington that we won’t go back. PPMM will be here for the women and families who need us.



## Letter From Linda Williams

A last letter from our CEO after over 27 years of dedicated service



PPMM friends and supporters,

First and foremost, let me assure you that in these anxious and uncertain times our services are needed more than ever and Planned Parenthood Mar Monte is here to stay. Our patients see PPMM as a safe place, a sanctuary of compassion, understanding, high quality care, reassurance and protection.

Yes, the clear and present danger of federal defunding will loom over us for the duration of this administration. We are explicitly targeted in the recent proposed legislation which prohibits Medicaid reimbursement to any nonprofit entity that:

- Is defined as an essential community provider under the Affordable Care Act and primarily engages in family planning services or reproductive health,
- Provides abortion services beyond limited circumstances and
- Belongs to a network which exceeds \$350 million a year in Medicaid billing reimbursement.

There is precisely one organization that fits that definition—Planned Parenthood. Should the language be enacted at some point, PPMM could lose up to \$80M of our annual \$100,000,000 through reimbursements or programs that contain some component of federal support. Clearly that would be devastating to the health of the more than 220,000 women, men, teens and children who rely on our services every year.

PPMM with our regional, state-wide and national partners has a plan to prevent the devastation. The basic components in order include:

- **Defeat** defunding legislation.
- **Litigate** to enjoin any law from going into effect.
- **Delay** implementation through other means if litigation is unsuccessful.
- **Mitigate** effects of defunding if the first three components of the plan fail.

Each piece has potential for success and none is guaranteed. Implementation is underway on all four.

At the same time, the 2016 election results created a new opportunity to activate the previously somnolent portion of the electorate that is now wide awake and eager to create a more positive future. We have a fresh chance to inspire them and ourselves in a new effort to secure the stable, consistent access to the reproductive health care women need when and where they need it without fear of judgment, harassment, defunding, or jail—not just in a few states, not just for a few decades but once and for all, everywhere all the time. Let's commit together to build the future we want in defiance of those who want to send us back to a second-class past.

*Optimistically,*

  
Linda Williams  
President and CEO

## PPMM health center debuts in South San Francisco

After three years of legal battles and public testimony – including discredited claims from anti-abortion protestors and ardent support from many in the community – PPMM is proud to announce that our new South San Francisco health center is slated to open in May.

We are in the final stages of completing construction and electrical work on the two-story building, located on Grand Avenue. For the first six months, the health center will operate as a satellite site with limited hours until full licensing can be obtained.



We will provide reproductive health services initially and expand to services such as family medicine, abortion and education programs based on needs of the community. Patient-recruitment efforts will include billboards located between San Mateo and Daly City, and our Marketing department will focus on geographically and demographically targeted mobile advertising as well.

We look forward to celebrating with the South San Francisco community as PPMM opens our doors to the patients who need the compassionate, affordable and quality care that thousands rely on. We will continue to provide updates on the progress of this new facility in our upcoming newsletters.

# From Mar to Monte

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE AFFILIATE

Donors, on-site volunteers and activists are the backbone of PPMM. Ranging from successful spur-of-the-moment fundraising events to notes of encouragement addressed to staff at our health centers, the outpouring of support in recent months has been truly inspiring! Here are just a few of the dozens of activities that our friends and neighbors put together on our behalf.

Equinox Winery on the west side of **Santa Cruz** held a fundraiser for Planned Parenthood on Inauguration Day and donated 20 percent of its daily sales directly to PPMM. The winery's pitch: "We can think of no better way to 'make America great again' than by joining together for good!"

The stylists at Bigsby House, a trendy salon located between downtown **San Jose** and the city's Rose Garden district, dedicated their time and talent on a recent Sunday to support PPMM. The day included live music, champagne, cupcakes, great new hairstyles – and raised more than \$6,000 for PPMM!

On March 26th, critically acclaimed comedian and creator of the podcast the Smartest Man in the World, Greg Proops, invited Planned Parenthood Mar Monte to join him at a live recording of his podcast in **San Jose** to raise awareness and critical funds for our local health centers!



Jessica Kwock, Heartcore pilates instructor – and PPMM fundraiser!

Jessica Kwock (above), a senior instructor at Heartcore in **Redwood City**, led the pilates studio's drive to donate all proceeds from two of its Sunday classes to PPMM. It was a great event with personalized Planned Parenthood cupcakes, cookies, and some serious workouts to burn off those calories!



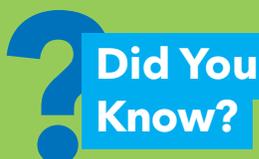
A young supporter enjoying the Bigsby House fundraiser

A St. Patrick's Day Planned Parenthood benefit show at the popular Tokyo Garden karaoke spot in **Fresno's Tower District** featured live music by Skid Romeo & Friends.

Directors at The Channing House retirement community in **Palo Alto** called to say that many of their more than 200 residents wanted to help. After a conference call with a PPMM volunteer coordinator and the Channing House "Support PP" representatives, the group decided to write cards to staff. The retirees are also knitting Pink Power hats for PPMM to sell in advance of our staff and volunteers' participation in the fundraising "Human Race," along the Santa Cruz Coast.

## Host Your Own House Party!

Pull together a group of friends and raise funds and awareness for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte. Contact our development department at [events@ppmarmonte.org](mailto:events@ppmarmonte.org) for tips and tools on how to make your event a success.



### Did You Know?

What does "defunding" Planned Parenthood really mean? (See page 6 for the answer.)

## Q&A with: Nevada's newly elected Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto

Planned Parenthood Advocates Mar Monte was proud to help elect the first Latina to serve in the US Senate!

**PPMM:** *What sparked your desire to become a senator?*

**Sen. Cortez Masto:** When I was growing up, I remember my father was always willing to help anyone in the community. Neighbors would approach him and would call our home asking for his advice and assistance. His dedication to the community inspired me early on to want to help people, and I decided that law and public service was the best way for me to do that. Ultimately, it led me to run for Senate.

*What do you hope to accomplish in the next six years?*

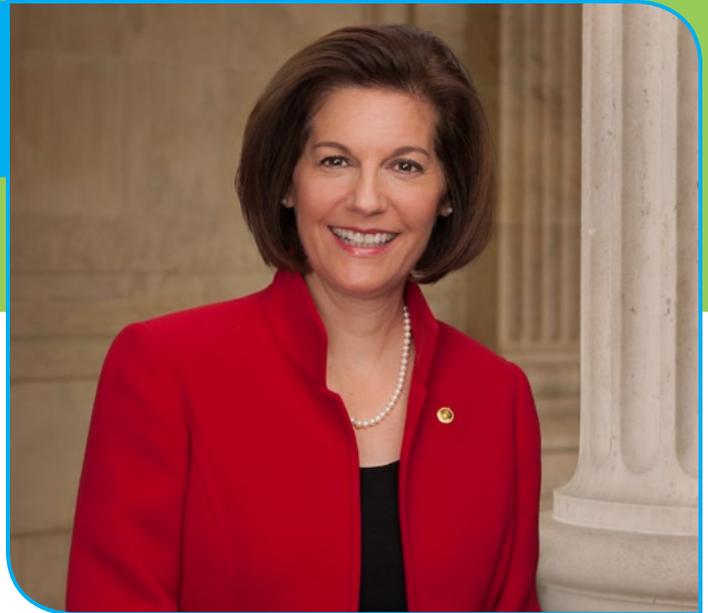
I hope to use the next six years to address the issues that are affecting hard-working Nevada families the most. At this time, my focus is protecting the ACA from Republican encroachment. We need to ensure that we protect families' access to affordable health care. I will also work tirelessly to protect women's right to choose and support reproductive care throughout the country. In addition to health care, the Trump administration has begun to dismantle the financial protections implemented after the Great Recession that were intended to protect Americans from predatory banks. I will work with my colleagues in the Senate to fight against those changes.

*What do you consider the biggest issues women face in our country?*

With Republicans controlling Congress and the White House, they have started to work towards dismantling our rights as women to have access to affordable, safe, and legal reproductive care. After so many decades of progress, it is absolutely unacceptable and sickening that Republicans feel entitled to take these rights from us. The emboldened right hopes to end women's choice, but we will not stand by quietly. Americans across the country are voicing their opposition to this, and we must not back down.

*What issues have you faced or seen as a woman in government?*

Even though the 115th Congress has seen more female senators than any Congress in history, the fact is that women continue to be under-represented – not only in Congress but throughout Washington. As I have said many times before, our government must reflect the people it represents. We also need to have more women of color at the table.



*Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto*

*What are the most important federal issues that Nevadans should be paying attention to?*

Besides health care and women's reproductive rights, Nevadans should keep an eye on immigration and the environment. Under the Trump administration, the federal government has aggressively persecuted immigrants, separating families and banning people from entering the country because of their religion. The administration, by appointing (Environmental Protection Agency chief) Scott Pruitt has shown its lack of commitment to protecting our environment. Northern Nevada has seen a record amount of precipitation that has caused flooding and property damage, while Southern Nevada continues to suffer from debilitating drought. These phenomena are all related to climate change and they cannot be ignored.

*How can citizens ensure their voices are heard on the federal level?*

The most effective way to make your voice heard is calling your congressperson and senators. With everything that has been going on in Washington, we have had calls pouring in from concerned Nevadans. Citizens can also participate in their communities by supporting organizations that advocate for causes they care about.

*Planned Parenthood Mar Monte does not support or oppose any candidate or party for election to public office. Any views expressed herein by individuals are their own, not necessarily those of Planned Parenthood Mar Monte.*

## 8 Things You Can Do Now

## Pros & Cons

### DONATE

You can make a donation today to support PPMM's mission: [ppmarmonte.org/donate-now](http://ppmarmonte.org/donate-now)

### PLAN

You can help ensure a bright future for PPMM via legacy giving: [ppmarmonte.org/legacy](http://ppmarmonte.org/legacy)

### CONNECT

Sign up to receive email alerts and information: [ppmarmonte.org/email-signup](http://ppmarmonte.org/email-signup)

### VISIT

Make an appointment at one of our 30+ health centers or refer a friend or family member: [ppmarmonte.org/visit](http://ppmarmonte.org/visit)

### VOLUNTEER

Join hundreds of volunteers across PPMM who support our mission daily: [ppmarmonte.org/volunteer](http://ppmarmonte.org/volunteer)

### SHARE YOUR STORY

Tell us about a time PPMM helped you or someone you care about: [ppmarmonte.org/my-story](http://ppmarmonte.org/my-story)

### HUG A HEALTH CENTER

Drop off a thank you card or other sign of support for staff at your local health center.

### ENGAGE

Hear the latest via our social media work. Join the conversation, share with friends, help spread the word:

 [twitter.com/ppmarmonte](https://twitter.com/ppmarmonte)

 [fb.com/plannedparenthoodmm](https://fb.com/plannedparenthoodmm)

 [instagram.com/ppmarmonte](https://instagram.com/ppmarmonte)

 [youtube.com/PlannedParenthoodMM](https://youtube.com/PlannedParenthoodMM)

## Did You Know?

### Answer from Page 3

"Defunding" is a misleading term. The federal funding in question actually refers to reimbursements through Medicaid for services ranging from long acting reversible contraceptives (LARCS) to STD-testing and treatment to cancer-screenings. (The Hyde Amendment prohibits federal funding from being used for abortion services.)

The majority in Congress remains determined to make Planned Parenthood ineligible to receive Medicaid reimbursements for our preventive care services – even though abortion services are not covered. So-called "defunding" does pose a real threat to PPMM, and we can't be sure of the form it might take. But we are confident, because of the way our affiliate has successfully dealt with these kinds of challenges in the past, we can use our resources effectively and efficiently to keep our doors open.

## NOTABLE QUOTES FROM CALIFORNIA AND AROUND THE COUNTRY

### 😊 Pros

"Planned Parenthood health centers are really a lifeline for quality health care for under-served communities." – *Destiny Lopez, co-director of pro-choice advocacy group All Above All.*

"Girls just want to have FUNding for Planned Parenthood"

"I can't believe I'm STILL protesting this"

"Keep your Laws off my Ovaries"

"If you take away my birth control, I'll just make more FEMINISTS!"

– *Just a sampling of the great protest signs seen at the Women's Marches around the country. Post your favorite signs on our Facebook page: [fb.com/plannedparenthoodmm](https://fb.com/plannedparenthoodmm)*

"An estimated one in five women in the U.S. has visited a Planned Parenthood health center at least once in her life." – *Cecile Richards further reminding us of whose health care is at stake.*

### 😞 Cons

"This administration will work with the Congress to end taxpayer funding of abortion and abortion providers." – *VP Mike Pence, speaking at the March for Life, January 27, 2017 (It was the first time that a U.S. vice president addressed participants at this annual march.)*

"We expect to see Congress continue its efforts to redirect additional taxpayer funding away from Planned Parenthood through pro-life health care reform after the spring recess."

– *Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the anti-abortion Susan B. Anthony List*

"I wouldn't want to lose my mammograms!"

– *Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS) sarcastically commenting on a potential change in the proposed Republican health care bill.*

*Have you seen a great or terrible quote lately? Send us your suggestions at [development@ppmarmonte.org](mailto:development@ppmarmonte.org).*