



We are hearing from a lot of supporters who are eager to show their support for Planned Parenthood in the form of a counter-protest outside of our health centers, in opposition to anti-abortion protestors.

While we are grateful for the incredible outpouring of love and support we've seen across the region, our first priority is always to serve our patients and ensure they can get the high-quality, often life-saving care that Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho (PPGWNI) health centers provide. **To that end, we ask our supporters not to counter- protest outside of any of our health centers. We discourage any counter-protests outside of PPGWNI.**

Q: Why don't you support any counter-protests?

A: While we understand it's frustrating to see those protestors, we discourage our supporters from holding counter-protests outside our health centers because it is counter-productive. Any form of protest outside of our health centers, even in support, is not beneficial to our patients. Our patients are simply trying to access their health care, so having demonstrators of any kind outside the health center, can create an intimidating and disruptive experience for them. For staff and volunteers, we follow a strict non-engagement policy.

Q: Can't we help protect patients if we're outside your health center?

A: PPGWNI Security's primary objective is to ensure the safety of patients and staff. We have the highest security measures in place to ensure just that.

Counter-protests can potentially increase the risk of loud and dangerous confrontations between opposing parties. Oftentimes in a protest/counter-protest situation, patients typically cannot tell who is with them and who is against them. The back and forth can often be intimidating and lead to escalation, inadvertently preventing patients from getting the care they need.

We have clinic escort program in which trained volunteers help diffuse situations and help patients navigate their way through any protests, as needed. An increased number of people outside our health centers can only make their jobs harder

Q: If I can't counter-protest, what else can I do to get involved and fight for reproductive health and rights?

There are a number of ways you can help!

- Email us to volunteer at volunteer@ppgwni.org
- [Donate locally](#) to Planned Parenthood of Greater Washington and North Idaho
- [Follow us on Facebook](#) to stay up to date on ways to get involved and show up PPGWNI!
- Get involved with [Planned Parenthood Advocates of Greater Washington and North Idaho](#), the political and advocacy arm of PPGWNI.
- Organize your own event and action in support of Planned Parenthood. Email info@ppagwni.org for more information.

Thank you for your understanding and for your continued support!