



American Medical **Women's** Association
The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
S-230, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

October 7, 2015

Re: Support for Federal Funding for Planned Parenthood

Dear Leader McConnell and Speaker Boehner:

As an organization representing women health care professionals and the people they serve across the country, the American Medical Women's Association, AMWA, strongly opposes efforts to prevent Planned Parenthood health centers from participating in federal health programs, including Medicaid and the Title X family planning program.

Planned Parenthood provides a wide range of preventive health care services, including lifesaving screenings for breast and cervical cancer, birth control, well-women exams, and testing, treatment, and counseling for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. Planned Parenthood professionals are highly trained doctors and nurses and other health care professionals who follow up to date standards and guidelines that ensure that the care provided is of the highest quality.

Defunding Planned Parenthood would prevent millions of women and men across the United States from getting basic preventive health care and contraception. In fact 2.7 million women rely on Planned Parenthood for health care and for many women Planned Parenthood is their only source of care. Planned Parenthood provides almost half a million screenings for cervical cancer and for breast cancer, 2 million contraceptive services, and nearly 4.5 million tests and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. For many women, Planned Parenthood is their sole source of health care. People come to Planned Parenthood because they know that they will be cared for compassionately and confidentially.

The services described above constitute more than 90% of Planned Parenthood's work. These services improve health, prevent cancer and also prevent about 500,000 unintended pregnancies annually.

American Medical Women's Association

12100 Sunset Hills Road • Suite 130, Reston, VA 20190 • Telephone (703) 234-4069 • Fax: (703) 435-4390 • www.amwa-doc.org



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Any proposal to exclude Planned Parenthood from public health programs will severely curtail women's and men's access to essential health care services. This would affect millions of women throughout the country. In some states Planned Parenthood is the only provider participating in Title X funding, and in many states Planned Parenthood health centers are in medically underserved areas.

AMWA strongly supports policies that increase access to affordable, high quality health care. We urge you to continue federal funding for Planned Parenthood. Eliminating this federal funding would prevent millions from having access to preventive health services and would have a devastating impact on women's health in the United States.

Should you have any questions please contact Dr. Eliza Chin, Executive Director, AMWA at 510- 326-5395.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber', is written over a faint, light-colored circular watermark or background.

The American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)
Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber MD FACP FAMWA, President

<http://www.amwa-doc.org>

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CC: Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid
House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
Cecile Richards, President PPFA

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