



## **The Institute for Science and Human Values Stands With Planned Parenthood**

Planned Parenthood health centers play an important role in helping women meet their sexual and reproductive health needs. According to the *Guttmacher Institute* although Planned Parenthood health centers comprise 10% of all publicly funded family planning centers, they serve 36% of all clients who obtain care from the clinic network. Similarly, Planned Parenthood health centers serve a disproportionate share of clients in the Title X system, comprising 13% of Title X clinics but serving 37% of clients. Each Planned Parenthood health center on average serves nearly 3,000 contraceptive clients per year—far more than other clinic types.

**"In other words, women vote with their feet, and about one-third of women who rely on safety-net health centers for their family planning care get that care from Planned Parenthood."** <sup>1</sup>

If Planned Parenthood health centers were defunded, it is impossible to know what would happen to the several million clients currently relying on these centers for their family planning services. There is no way to predict whether other health care providers throughout the country could step up—how quickly they could fill the gap or for how many clients.<sup>2</sup>

Led by rabid pro-birth militants and radical religious fanatics, politicians are passing state and federal laws restricting or simply denying access to abortion, birth control and maternal health care at the expense of women and their families. Pregnancy is dangerous for women. Defunding Planned Parenthood will make matters much worse. The callous disregard for women, their healthcare, their happiness and their very lives is both immoral and disgraceful.

Planned Parenthood is currently under false attack for violating the 1993 law on fetal tissue research, when in fact they are not. Planned Parenthood affiliates oper-

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<sup>1</sup> Guttmacher 29Jul15 memo Data on the role of PP health centers in women's reproductive needs

<sup>2</sup> Guttmacher 29Jul15 memo Data on the role of PP health centers in women's reproductive needs

ate in all 50 states, but at this time affiliates in fewer than five states help women donate tissue for crucial research.

Fetal stem cells are vital for scientific research necessary to find much needed cures for fatal diseases. The women who make the decision to donate tissues do so to find meaning and purpose in their experience. It is wrong to interfere in their personal decisions, and is further evidence of the complete indifference to women's self autonomy.

Yes, the Institute for Science and Human Values stands with Planned Parenthood and we call on all elected officials to fund them fully and protect them, and the women and families they serve.



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