

Planned Parenthood Funding

Position Paper

Revised March 15, 2017



OVERVIEW

The American Health Care Act (AHCA) proposes a one-year freeze on mandatory funding to Planned Parenthood from Medicaid, CHIP, Maternal and Child Health Services Block grants, and Social Services Block Grants.

One year of funding from Planned Parenthood, estimated to be \$422 million, would be reallocated to Federally Qualified Health Centers to help fill the primary care gaps left by a defunded Planned Parenthood.

THE PROBLEM

Planned Parenthood currently operates 115 health centers in California and serves over 850,000 patients through 1.5 million encounters annually.

Planned Parenthood's role as a comprehensive provider of care is critical part of California's primary care delivery system. They are a provider of choice to hundreds of thousands of women and men who seek out a variety of essential healthcare services.

Planned Parenthood health centers in California perform 75,000 breast examinations and 96,000 cervical cancer screenings annually. They also perform 1.5 million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted diseases and infections and provide contraception to 631,000 patients. Planned Parenthood health centers also teach sexual health education programs to 207,000 people annually.

Diminishing Planned Parenthood's network of care would also diminish a patient's ability to choose the provider with which they feel most comfortable. Planned Parenthood's focus on women's health provides low-income women a health home that cannot be easily replicated.

OUR POSITION

CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates strongly supports continued funding for Planned Parenthood as an essential provider in our communities.

Any policies that eliminate or diminish Planned Parenthood's role in our state's comprehensive network of care would put untenable stress on remaining health centers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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Talking Points

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- Planned Parenthood currently operates 115 health centers in California and serves nearly 850,000 patients through 1.5 million encounters annually. Nationally, they serve 2.5 million.
- Any policies that eliminate or diminish Planned Parenthood's role in our state's comprehensive network of care would put untenable stress on remaining health centers. We do not have the capacity for such an increase.
- Putting that aside, their role as a comprehensive provider of care cannot be understated. They are a provider of choice to hundreds of thousands of women and men who seek out a variety of essential healthcare services like breast examinations and cervical cancer screenings, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases and infections, contraception and family planning, urinary tract infection treatments, and other primary care services.
- In addition to access to care, such action would eliminate patient's ability to choose the provider with which they feel most comfortable. Planned Parenthood is seen by many as women's health centric, which provides their patients with a level of comfort that cannot be easily replicated.

Sample Questions and Answers

Question: If they were defunded and the funding was shifted to your health center, could you absorb the patients?

That's not the right question to be asking because it's a matter of patient choice, not just capacity. Patients need the right to choose their provider and Planned Parenthood offers an array of comprehensive services, including breast examinations, cervical cancer screenings, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, and in culturally competent manner. People choose to visit Planned Parenthood for those services and we do not want to deny them that opportunity.

Question: If you get Planned Parenthood's funding, can't you hire their staff?

We can't make such broad assumptions when it comes to the health of our patients. The healthcare workforce landscape is very competitive and there is no guarantee that Planned Parenthood staff, who have a strong commitment to their mission, will move simply because the money moved.

Question: What is your position on abortion?

The vast majority of our funding is from the federal government which doesn't permit abortion services. Our mission is primary care.