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To: Interested Parties

Subject: Texas voters oppose Perry on Women's Health Program

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A new Public Policy Polling survey finds that Texas voters are strongly opposed to Governor Rick Perry's decision to jeopardize the Women's Health Program. Only 38% support Perry's decision, while 55% are opposed. Key findings from the survey include:

-Women overwhelmingly oppose the decision by a 57/37 margin, while men do as well 52/40.

-Independent voters oppose Perry's decision 46/43.

We also asked more specifically about Governor Perry's decision to discriminate against women who choose Planned Parenthood as their health care provider. 59% oppose Perry's efforts to prevent women from using Planned Parenthood for vital preventive services, while only 38% support him on that front. A majority of independents, 51/45, oppose his position on the issue.

Perry and other state lawmakers who've joined him in working to end the Women's Health Program could pay a price at the polls. 53% of voters view this group of politicians unfavorably, compared to only 38% who see them in a positive light.

Dislike for officials trying to end the program unites women (36/50), men (40/57), whites (37/58), African Americans (25/64), seniors (34/61), and independents (44/47). This is a course of action turning off voters of all stripes.

Texas voters are sending a clear message to Governor Perry: they think the Women's Health Program is important and that he should leave it alone. And they think it's wrong to use Planned Parenthood as a political piñata and deny low income women access to critical cancer screenings, birth control, and screenings for diabetes and hypertension.

Public Policy Polling surveyed 562 Texas voters on March 2nd and 3rd. The poll was sponsored by Planned Parenthood and has a margin of error of +/-4.1%.

