

“Defunding” Planned Parenthood = Discriminating Against Patients Seeking Preventive Care and Worsening Public Health

[HB 10](#) and [HB 11](#) - [Rep. Smith](#) (R-163, Carthage)

These budget bills aim to “defund” Planned Parenthood, which means discriminating against patients by blocking their access to birth control, cancer screenings, and sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing at Planned Parenthood health centers.

Abortion-obsessed politicians are trying to “defund” Planned Parenthood, even though these programs fund only preventive care – like birth control, cancer screenings, and STI testing and treatment.

- House Bills 10 and 11 fund public health care programs like Medicaid and the Women’s Health Services Program. By using a ridiculously broad definition of “abortion services” that includes referral, these bills cut access to health care at providers throughout the state.
- Current law already prohibits this family planning funding from going to abortion – but politicians are so obsessed with abortion that they are willing to cut access to preventive care that prevents unintended pregnancy and keeps Missourians healthy and safe.

Missouri is in the midst of syphilis outbreak – this is not the time to block patients from accessing STI testing and treatment at Planned Parenthood health centers.

- The number of early syphilis cases in Missouri has increased 218% since 2012.
- The state of Missouri has recognized this public health threat. When it came time to find providers to treat this outbreak, they came to Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood has answered the call, ramping up testing for syphilis and providing treatment for patients.

Planned Parenthood is a crucial component of Missouri’s health care safety net.

- These bills leave thousands of Missouri patients without access to the most accessible and comprehensive family planning and women’s health care providers – including Planned Parenthood.
- Nearly [400,000 Missouri women](#) need publicly funded family planning services, and Missouri’s current safety net is already struggling to serve them – blocking patients from Planned Parenthood will only make things worse.
- If patients can no longer choose Planned Parenthood, many will have nowhere to turn for vital preventive care because the remaining health centers will not be able to absorb them.

Instead of making it more difficult for Missourians to access vital health care, lawmakers should focus on measures to improve Missourians’ health.

- Missouri’s maternal mortality rate is increasing, and parts of the state have infant mortality rates higher than those in developing countries. Restricting access to family planning and women’s health care providers, including Planned Parenthood, will only make things worse.

Missouri Safety Net Report Summary

Besides Planned Parenthood, **only 7% of more than 600 safety-net health centers offer a full range of birth control options and have evening or weekend hours.**

Missouri's safety net needs more resources, not fewer providers:

- 86% of non-Planned Parenthood providers DO NOT offer evening or weekend hours.
- 71% of non-Planned Parenthood providers DO NOT offer long-acting reversible birth control methods like IUDs.
- 41% of non-Planned Parenthood providers DO NOT offer birth control and Pap tests.

Researchers used records from the Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) to assess information provided by Congresswoman Ann Wagner. The DSS data included every Federally Qualified Health Center, Rural Health Clinic, Community Mental Health Center, safety-net hospital, and family planning and STD testing & treatment provider in the state. **Researchers assessed 667 health centers in Missouri** to determine if they provide family planning services to patients with low incomes. The research was conducted in 2017 and 2018 and included multiple calls to health centers, internet searches, and verification of Title X health center information by the Missouri Family Health Council.

If patients can no longer choose Planned Parenthood, many will have nowhere to turn to access vital preventive care because the remaining health centers will not be able to absorb them. *"Federally qualified health centers simply don't have the resources to offer the kind of drop-in care that's Planned Parenthood's specialty."* Dr. Abbe Sudvarg, St. Louis Public Radio, March 24, 2016

Read the full report: ppmissouri.org/report

MISSOURI'S SAFETY NET NEEDS MORE RESOURCES, NOT FEWER PROVIDERS

- Without Planned Parenthood, 17 of Missouri's 34 Senate districts have **zero** providers that offer accessible and comprehensive care.
- In five State Senate districts, Planned Parenthood is the **only** provider of accessible and comprehensive care.

STATE SENATE DISTRICT	HEALTH CENTERS BESIDES PLANNED PARENTHOOD		
	ACCESSIBLE Evening or weekend hours	COMPREHENSIVE CARE (Pap tests & full range of birth control, including LARCs)	BOTH ACCESSIBLE & COMPREHENSIVE
1 - Scott Sifton	0	0	0
2 - Bob Onder*	0	1	0
3 - Gary Romine	8	11	1
4 - Karla May	1	0	0
5 - Jamilah Nasheed	5	10	4
6 - Mike Bernskoetter	3	8	2
7 - Jason Holsman	4	7	2
8 - Mike Cierpiot	0	0	0
9 - Kiki Curls	2	2	1
10 - Jeanie Riddle	0	0	0
11 - John Rizzo*	0	1	0
12 - Dan Hegeman	3	9	1
13 - Gina Walsh*	0	1	0
14 - Brian Williams	0	2	0
15 - Andrew Koenig*	0	1	0
16 - Justin Brown	3	12	2
17 - Lauren Arthur	1	2	0
18 - Cindy O'Laughlin	9	14	6
19 - Caleb Rowden	1	4	1
20 - Eric Burlison	10	12	5
21 - Denny Hoskins	10	14	6
22 - Paul Wieland	0	3	0
23 - Bill Eigel	0	0	0

STATE SENATE DISTRICT	HEALTH CENTERS BESIDES PLANNED PARENTHOOD		
	ACCESSIBLE Evening or weekend hours	COMPREHENSIVE CARE (Pap tests & full range of birth control, including LARCs)	BOTH ACCESSIBLE & COMPREHENSIVE
24 - Jill Schupp	0	0	0
25 - Doug Libla	9	14	1
26 - Dave Schatz	3	7	0
27 - Wayne Wallingford	0	0	0
28 - Sandy Crawford	5	13	3
29 - David Sater	5	9	0
30 - Lincoln Hough	1	3	1
31 - Ed Emery	5	10	4
32 - Bill White	2	5	2
33 - Mike Cunningham	5	9	0
34 - Tony Luetkemeyer	1	2	1

* Red districts with an asterisk have zero comprehensive and accessible providers beyond Planned Parenthood. Red districts without an asterisk have zero comprehensive and accessible providers.