

Reckless Budget Proposal Costs Missouri Taxpayers Millions to Further Extreme Agenda Against Planned Parenthood

[HB 11](#) - [Rep. Fitzpatrick](#) (R-158, Shell Knob)

Proposal seeks to deprive thousands of Missourians from choosing women's health care providers, including Planned Parenthood, for their health care.

Politicians are attempting to take away preventive services like annual exams, birth control, cancer screenings, and sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment from patients insured through Medicaid. Last year, the Missouri Legislature went even further, recklessly rejecting \$8 million in federal family planning funds and creating an entirely new taxpayer-funded state program in order to skirt federal Medicaid laws and discriminate against Medicaid patients.

Other health care providers across the state have said that they cannot readily absorb Planned Parenthood's patient volume.

- Without access to women's health care providers, including Planned Parenthood, many Medicaid patients would be left without access to care.
- According to [an article](#) from *St. Louis Public Radio*: "At Family Care Health Center in Carondelet, Dr. Abbe Sudvarg said federally qualified health centers simply don't have the resources to offer the kind of drop-in care that's Planned Parenthood's specialty."
- A [Guttmacher Institute survey](#) of providers offering publicly funded family planning care — including public health departments, federally qualified health centers (FQHCs), and Planned Parenthood health centers — found that, "Planned Parenthood clinics surpass other clinics in terms of offering a wide variety of [contraceptive] methods and making those methods easily accessible."

Planned Parenthood in Missouri provides high-quality, affordable health care and education to 50,000 women, men, and young people each year.

- In Missouri, Planned Parenthood provides more than 7,000 Medicaid patients annually with preventive care like birth control, cancer screenings, annual exams, and STI testing and treatment.
- A recent [study of Texas](#), which chose to eliminate its Medicaid family planning program so it could exclude Planned Parenthood, shows birth control usage fell, while births from unintended pregnancies increased.

Given Missouri's budget crisis, this is a waste of taxpayer dollars.

- Missouri is facing a drastic budget shortfall this year. Gov. Eric Greitens has already proposed deep cuts to education and health care. Throwing away millions in federal funds is irresponsible.
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a [memo](#) warning that states may not remove approved health care providers simply because they also offer abortion care.
- Every state so far that has tried to bar Planned Parenthood and other women's health care providers from its Medicaid program has been blocked from doing so by federal courts.

Planned Parenthood in Missouri is a qualified Medicaid provider and is currently serving patients with Medicaid. Planned Parenthood's promise: "These doors stay open."