

## **Protect Planned Parenthood Patients and Improve Public Health**

[HB 2010](#) - Budget for the Dept. of Health and Senior Services

[HB 2011](#) - Budget for the Dept. of Social Services

*Planned Parenthood health centers play a pivotal role in providing preventive care like birth control, cancer screenings, and STI testing – especially for Missourians with low incomes.*

**MO HealthNet and the Women’s Health Services Program are meant to ensure Missourians with low incomes can access vital preventive care like birth control, cancer screenings, and STI testing and treatment.**

- HB 2010 funds the Women’s Health Services Program, and HB 2011 funds MO HealthNet.
- More than [400,000 Missouri women](#) need publicly funded family planning services, and Missouri’s current safety net is already struggling to serve them.
- Preventive care reduces unintended pregnancies and keeps Missourians healthy and safe.

**For the past few years, lawmakers have used the budget to try and block patients in these programs from accessing preventive care at Planned Parenthood health centers.**

- By using a ridiculously broad definition of “abortion services” that includes referral, lawmakers used these bills to cut access to health care at providers throughout the state.
- Current law already bars this family planning funding from going to abortion – but politicians are so obsessed with abortion that they cut access to preventive care anyway.

**Planned Parenthood is a crucial component of Missouri’s health care safety net, providing accessible, comprehensive care to patients.**

- Despite budget bills that have discriminated against patients’ choice of providers, Planned Parenthood has continued to provide preventive care for patients.
- All 11 Planned Parenthood health centers in Missouri offer Pap tests and the full range of birth control options, including long-acting reversible contraception (LARCs).
- Planned Parenthood health centers are among the less than 10% of Missouri safety-net providers that have evening and weekend hours. In most cases, patients can get a same-day or next-day appointment.



Planned Parenthood Advocates in Missouri

**Missouri is in the midst of a syphilis outbreak – this is the time to *expand* access to STI testing and treatment, not block patients from 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.

**Instead of making it more difficult for Missourians to access 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.