

## **Blocking Patients from Health Care By “Defunding” Planned Parenthood**

[HB 1854](#) - [Rep. Schroer](#) (R-107, O’Fallon)

*In the midst of a global pandemic, politicians are attacking Planned Parenthood patients, and jeopardizing federal funding for Missouri’s entire Medicaid program.*

**This bill, like every other “defund” bill, blocks patients’ access to Planned Parenthood health centers. It will not improve Missourians’ health — in fact, it will only make things worse. No matter how you word it, blocking access to Planned Parenthood is unpopular.**

**This bill is designed to attack Planned Parenthood patients and could risk the funding for Missouri’s entire Medicaid program.**

- Federal law protects Medicaid patients’ right to choose their own health care provider.
- Barring Medicaid patients from choosing Planned Parenthood for health care services violates Medicaid’s “free choice of provider” provision.

**This bill is part of a long line of failed attempts to dismantle access to preventive care including birth control, STI testing and treatment, and cancer screenings.**

- In a June 2020 ruling, the Missouri Supreme Court was clear that it is unlawful for the state legislature to use the budget process to let politicians pick doctors rather than allow patients to pick their own health care providers.
- In 2021, politicians tried and failed to ban birth control for Medicaid patients. They nearly jeopardized millions of dollars in the Federal Reimbursement Allowance process.
- This bill is yet another attempt to block access for patients with low incomes who rely on Medicaid at a time when more Missourians are gaining access to this health insurance program.

**The impact of “defunding” bills disproportionately falls on people of color and women who are forced to rely on publicly funded programs because of racist and discriminatory policies.**

- This bill targets patients who rely on any help from the state to access health care or are insured by MO HealthNet, Missouri’s Medicaid program, blocking patients from choosing their own health care providers.
- This bill discriminates against patients and block them from using their health insurance at any health center affiliated with an abortion provider — and Planned Parenthood is the only target — despite the fact that federal law bans Medicaid from covering abortion services.
- This bill will particularly impact Missouri communities that are already facing extreme disparities in access to health care, and are in especially vulnerable circumstances due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Advocates of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region  
and Southwest Missouri

- **“Defunding” Planned Parenthood means fewer patients access the health care they need.** [Participation in the state family planning program has decreased by nearly 35%](#) since politicians excluded Planned Parenthood health centers and other providers.

**Planned Parenthood is a crucial component of Missouri’s health care safety net, providing thousands of patients high-quality care that is both accessible and comprehensive.**

- Despite repeated legislative efforts to “defund” Planned Parenthood and discriminate against patients by preventing them from choosing their own health care providers, Planned Parenthood continues to offer vital preventive care to Missourians.
- All Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri health centers offer Pap tests and the full range of birth control options, including long-acting reversible contraception (LARCs).