

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

[SB 637](#) - [Sen. Onder](#) (R-2, Lake St. Louis), [SB 667](#)- [Sen. Burlison](#) (R-20, Battlefield)

[SB 1103](#) - [Sen. Brattin](#) (R-31, Harrisonville), [SJR 34](#) - [Sen. Eigel](#) (R-23, St. Charles)

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

*“Defunding” is shorthand for blocking patients’ who rely on Medicaid from accessing birth control, cancer screenings and STI testing and treatment from their trusted providers at Planned Parenthood.*

**These bills, just like prior “defund” attacks, block patients’ access to care at Planned Parenthood health centers. This does nothing to improve Missourians’ health — in fact, it will only make things worse. Blocking access to Planned Parenthood is unpopular and harmful.**

**These bills are designed to attack Planned Parenthood patients and could risk 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, which could risk funding for Missouri’s entire Medicaid program.

**These bills are part of a long line of failed attempts to block patients’ access to preventive care, including birth control, STI testing and treatment, and cancer screenings.**

- 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.
- These are political attacks 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 through Medicaid Expansion.

**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.**

- “Defunding” targets patients who rely on MO HealthNet, Missouri’s Medicaid program, and violates their right to choose their own health care providers.
- These bills discriminate 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.
- “Defunding” particularly impacts Missouri communities that are already facing 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.**

- In 2021, Planned Parenthood health centers cared for 52% of patients who depend on Missouri’s family planning safety net system.
- Missouri’s family planning safety net is already stretched too thin — blocking patients from accessing care from their trusted providers at Planned Parenthood will harm all patients.
- It is irresponsible to “defund” an organization that sees more than half of MO safety net patients.
- 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).