



Why is Congress pushing to defund Planned Parenthood?

In July 2015, the [Center for Medical Progress](#) released the first of a series of undercover videos about Planned Parenthood’s practices. The videos, featuring multiple interviews with various Planned Parenthood staff and Stem Express (the buyer of human body parts), reveal a number of disturbing conversations.

The videos show hard evidence that life in the womb is more than just a “clump of cells,” revealing the undeniable humanity of the preborn child. The videos further question Planned Parenthood’s practices and whether they illegally sells the body parts of aborted fetuses for profit and alter the surgical abortion procedure to preserve intact parts.

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Since CMP released its videos, many people have called – for one or all of the reasons cited above – for the elimination of federal funds to Planned Parenthood.

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The undercover Planned Parenthood videos are heavily edited, so why should we believe them?

The Center for Medical Progress released the edited videos to essentially highlight the main focus of the conversations. With each edited video, contrary to reports from sources such as the *New York Times*, the full videos were released at the same time.

For a fair evaluation of the videos, from the progressive media organization Vox, you may read [this article](#).

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Would the Senate bill (S. 1881) close down Planned Parenthood?

The Senate bill would not close Planned Parenthood. It would simply prevent the organization from receiving federal funds from either Medicaid or Title X grants. The organization would continue to exist, albeit on private funds, revenue from abortions, and patients' fees. According to a Congressional Research Service report, Planned Parenthood receives approximately \$60 million (or only 5 percent of its annual budget) in Title X grants.

Doesn't Planned Parenthood provide a lot of important services to women?

A vast majority of Planned Parenthood's services, about 76 percent, are dedicated to STD testing/treatment and contraception for both men and women.

Women's health needs – including heart disease (the number one killer of women), cancer, diabetes, and other non-sexual health concerns – are a larger concern for a majority of US women.

Further, there are approximately 158 million women in the U.S. While Planned Parenthood claims to be the leading health care provider for women, in 2014, Planned Parenthood provided services to approximately 1.4 percent of U.S. women.

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Won't Women Loss Access to Contraception if Planned Parenthood Loses its Federal Funding?

No. Planned Parenthood is not a large provider for the 158 million women serving less than 1.4 percent. Further, Planned Parenthood is not the only place where a woman can receive or purchase contraception.

In fact, due to the ACA, fewer women will rely on Planned Parenthood since a majority of women now receive free contraception through their healthcare plans. Almost 90 percent of Americans receive insurance through their employee, Medicaid, Medicare or Military — plans that all require contraception be provide with no cost sharing.

For those who do not have health insurance, Community Health Centers and Title X clinics offer all of these services free of charge.

Isn't abortion just a small part (3 percent) of Planned Parenthood's services?

Planned Parenthood reported 10 million provided services, the number of actual patients was about 2.7 million. Therefore, when compared to the number of actual patients, that 3 percent number is actually more like 12 percent or a little more than 1 in 10 patients, which is a much more sizeable proportion.

In [a recent New York Post op-ed](#), *National Review* editor Rich Lowry wrote a series of analogies to argue that the 3 percent figure “is crafted to obscure the reality of Planned Parenthood’s business.

Despite the fact that Planned Parenthood reported 10 million provided services, the number of actual patients was about 2.7 million. Therefore, when compared to the number of actual patients, that 3 percent number is actually more like 12 percent or a little more than 1 in 10 patients.

Even left-leaning Slate magazine called this the “[most meaningless abortion statistic ever](#).”

For a more in-depth look at Planned Parenthood’s 3 percent number, click [here](#) and [here](#).

Won't defunding Planned Parenthood negatively affect a lot of women?

Again, Planned Parenthood provide services to just 1.4 percent of US women. However, there are many alternatives that provide comprehensive healthcare.

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Statistics from Planned Parenthood Report and the Community Health Center Report

	Community Health Centers	Planned Parenthood
Mammograms	424,376	NONE
Abortions	NONE	327,653
Pap Tests	1,787,256	378,692
Patients	23 million	< 3 million
Facilities	> 9,000	< 700

Would Community Health Centers be able to handle the influx of patients?

Every year, Community Health Centers [serve more than 23 million patients at more than 9,000 locations](#) across the country. The Affordable Care Act provided \$11 billion to the states to prepare for an influx of an additional 20 million patients, and [700 Community Health Centers have opened in the past five years](#). Additional funding has been provided to continue the expansion of Community Health Centers to reach communities in need.

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Furthermore, when one adds other health care clinics, there are [13,540 clinics that provide comprehensive health care](#) for women.

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By contrast, the number of Planned Parenthood clinics is on the decline. In 2000, there were almost 900 clinics, but there are only about 650 now. Community Health Centers are already operating at a significantly higher rate than Planned Parenthood, both in location and in number of patients.

Doesn't Planned Parenthood Help Reduce Abortions?

The theory that Planned Parenthood actually reduces abortions because it distributes contraception, sexual education, and some family planning is being pushed by many pro-choice advocates, but there are mixed reviews on this claim. First, the fact that it is the largest abortion provider in the nation and its market share is increasing should cause some initial scrutiny of incentive to reduce demand.

Second, Planned Parenthood opposes policies, such as waiting periods, mandated parental involvement, and limitations on publicly funded abortions that have proven to reduce abortion. States with reasonable restrictions tend to have lower abortion rates. By contrast, New York, which has unlimited taxpayer funds for abortion and no restrictions, has the highest abortion rate in the nation. In fact, only 12 percent of New York women do not have an abortion clinic in their county.

Third, the scope of Planned Parenthood's outreach has been overstated. With under 700 facilities and fewer than 10 clinics in 31 states, it serves approximately 2.7 million people, or less than 1.4 percent of US women.

While Planned Parenthood has a powerful lobby, the impact on comprehensive health care is limited.