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## PLANNED PARENTHOOD AND TITLE X Billion Dollar Group Will Lose Federal Funds If Republicans Hold Firm

On February 18, 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill (240-185) that would prevent Planned Parenthood from receiving federal “family planning” dollars. Nearly one-third of its billion dollar annual budget comes from American taxpayers (at least \$53 million from Title X). The prime sponsor of H.R. 217, the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, was Rep. Michael R. Pence, R-Ind. The budget proposed by the Republican leadership eliminates Title X altogether so the bill would apply only if the program survives.



Pence

H.R. 217 amends the Public Health Service Act to allow Title X (federal “family planning” program) funds to go only to those entities that certify they will neither commit abortions nor give funds to an entity that does so during the period of such funding. An exception is provided for abortions committed when the baby was conceived as the result of a sex crime (rape or incest) against a minor and when a doctor certifies that the mother suffers from a physical disorder, injury, or illness that would place her in danger of physical death unless an abortion is done, including a condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy. Hospitals that do not provide funds to a non-hospital entity that commits abortions are excluded from the exception. The measure also requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to annually provide Congress with information on grantees that committed abortions based on the stated exceptions as well as a list of entities that received Title X funds.

In a strictly symbolic move, 100 members of Congress demonstrated their support for allowing Planned Parenthood to keep its hand in federal coffers by signing a letter addressed to Speaker of the House John A. Boehner, R-Ohio. The letter, the rhetoric of which indicates that it was written by the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA), was dated February 11, 2011:

### Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

We are writing to strongly oppose efforts designed to undermine women’s access to basic, preventive health care and the women’s health providers they rely on in their

communities. In particular, we are deeply concerned about the impact that H.R. 217...would have on American women and their families.

H.R. 217 is squarely aimed at Planned Parenthood health centers, which serve 3 million Americans every year—providing life-saving cancer screenings, routine gynecological examinations, contraceptive services, immunizations, and STI testing and treatment. For more than 90 years, Planned Parenthood’s doctors and nurses have served as a critical source of health care in communities throughout the United States. One in five American women has received care from a Planned Parenthood health center at some point in her life, making it one of the largest women’s health care providers in the country.

We are concerned that some members of Congress are pursuing an agenda that would undercut women’s access to health care.

H.R. 217 poses a significant threat to women’s health. It would prohibit women’s health centers from receiving Title X family planning funds if they separately provide abortion care with private funds. Given that the law already requires women’s health centers to demonstrate that Title X funds are not used for abortion, this legislation is clearly intended to prevent Planned Parenthood and other women’s health centers from receiving this critical funding stream.

American women will suffer if this legislation becomes law, as Planned Parenthood currently serves 36 percent of Americans who receive health care through the Title X program. Simply put, H.R. 217 would cut millions of American women off from their source of primary care.

Now is the time to be working on the issues that Americans care most about: creating jobs and improving the economy. We strongly encourage that you ensure the House of Representatives is focused on these issues, rather than legislation that takes health care away from American women.

A PPFA statement declared that H.R. 217 would result in “women losing access to the very basic health care they need.” PPFA claimed that 48 percent (1.4 million) of its customers would be cut off from “their source of health care.” Of course, Planned Parenthood could prevent this from happening by either closing its abortion business or referring customers seeking birth control to competitors. (Passage of the bill may lead to the opening of new “family planning” businesses that would be eligible to receive Title X funds and without Planned Parenthood’s dirty and oversized baggage.)

PPFA emphasizes its less controversial programs, such as cancer screenings, implying that they would be affected by the passage of H.R. 217. Yet the bill specifically amends “Title X of the Public Health Service Act.” (See “The Siege of Planned Parenthood” below for a response to some of the arguments made by PPFA supporters.)

PPFA released another statement after the vote on H.R. 217. Its hierarchy called the measure “an extreme and dangerous piece of legislation targeting Planned Parenthood, one of America’s largest and most trusted health care providers, and voted to prohibit Planned Parenthood from receiving federal funds for any purpose, including providing basic primary and lifesaving preventive health care to women and families.” (Did PPFA say “lifesaving”?) They also claimed the action proves the Republican majority is “radically out of step with mainstream American values and it is out of line with the issues voters want Congress to focus on.”



PPFA used its website to urge people to back its side of the debate. Of course, by “back” PPFA means “send money.”

“In attacking Planned Parenthood,” the piece continued, “the House Republican leadership has launched an outrageous assault on the millions of Americans who rely on Planned Parenthood for primary and preventive health care, including lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings, annual exams, family planning visits, birth control, HIV testing, and more.” Very dramatic, but untrue. The “assault” is on Planned Parenthood’s abortion business. Nothing more. PPFA predicted that if the House action becomes law it “certainly guarantees an increase in the number of unintended pregnancies.”

PPFA is pinning its hopes on the U.S. Senate where the leadership is rabidly pro-abortion. “It now falls to Senators from both parties to join together to reject this extreme approach, restore common sense, and guarantee that Planned Parenthood and the millions of Americans who count on us for health care are protected.”

There is little doubt that the U.S. Senate will provide full funding for Title X and reject H.R. 217, but there is one key factor that will determine the program’s future—at least in the short-term. Will the members of Congress who voted to deny funding to Planned Parenthood willing to hold their ground? The Senate and House must both pass a bill before it can go to the President. If the House steadfastly refuses to give in, Planned Parenthood will be denied funding. It is a matter of which side has the deepest convictions.

### “THE SIEGE OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD”

The hierarchy at *The New York Times* loves Planned Parenthood. Not only does the worldwide newspaper editorialize in favor of Planned Parenthood’s deadly activities, its parent (The New York Times Company) makes donations to the abortion-advocacy group.

On February 4, 2011 *The New York Times* published an editorial by Gail Collins titled, “The Siege of Planned Parenthood.” The piece deserves a review:

As if we didn’t have enough wars, the House of Representatives has declared one against Planned Parenthood.

Maybe it’s all part of a grand theme. Last month, they voted to repeal the health care law. This month, they’re going after an organization that provides millions of women with both family-planning services and basic health medical care, like pap smears and screening for diabetes, breast cancer, cervical cancer and sexually transmitted diseases.

...

What does “Planned Parenthood” have to do with “basic health medical care?” Nothing whatsoever, unless you accept its claim that abortion *is* “basic health medical care.” Planned Parenthood was created for one reason and one reason only—birth control. And to Planned Parenthood abortion is a form of birth control that is as legitimate and morally right as any other. Everything done by Planned Parenthood that is not related to birth control is exclusively for “cosmetic” purposes. This allows the group to minimize the significance of its abortion business by claiming the “procedure” constitutes a mere three percent of its “services.”

“What is more fiscally responsible than denying any and all funding to Planned Parenthood of America [sic]?” demanded Representative Mike Pence of Indiana, the chief sponsor of a bill to bar the government from directing any money to any organization that provides abortion services.

The “pap smears and screening for diabetes, breast cancer, cervical cancer and sexually transmitted diseases” offered at Planned Parenthood, usually at taxpayer expense, are not at issue. Congress is not seeking to end

funding for such work, even though this is implied whenever a fan of Planned Parenthood discusses the matter.

For far too long PPFA has mixed “birth control” with “abortion.” But this is not surprising coming from a group that considers abortion part of “basic” health care.

Planned Parenthood doesn't use government money to provide abortions; Congress already prohibits that, except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. (Another anti-abortion bill that's coming up for hearing originally proposed changing the wording to “forcible rape,” presumably under the theory that there was a problem with volunteer rape victims. On that matter at least, cooler heads prevailed.)

Federal taxpayer dollars are not used for abortions, except in the stated cases, but some states pay for it. (As usual, “life of the mother” is very broadly defined.)

Planned Parenthood does pay for its own abortion services, though, and that's what makes them a target. Pence has 154 co-sponsors for his bill. He was helped this week by an anti-abortion group called Live Action, which conducted a sting operation at 12 Planned Parenthood clinics in six states, in an effort to connect the clinic staff to child prostitution.

Planned Parenthood does not “pay for its own abortion services;” customers do. And payment is required upfront.

“Planned Parenthood aids and abets the sexual abuse and prostitution of minors,” announced Lila Rose, the beautiful anti-abortion activist who led the project. The right wing is currently chock-full of stunning women who want to end their gender's right to control their own bodies. Homely middle-aged men are just going to have to find another sex to push around.



Collins

Come on now. Everybody knows that “controlling” ones “own body” is not the issue. Can one body be two genders, have two blood types, two sets of brainwaves, and so forth? It is surprising that defenders of abortion have not abandoned this ludicrous argument. It is as foolish as the claim that preborn children are not “human beings,” which was used in the early days of the Pro-Abortion Movement.

While Collins' comments about men and women are sexist, she is clearly flustered by the very thought that any woman could oppose legal abortion. In fact, polls consistently show that women are more pro-life than men. But this contradicts Planned Parenthood propaganda that describes the average “anti-choice zealot” as a “homely middle-aged” man. There goes the abortion apologists' “you are a man so stay out of this issue” nonsense.

Live Action hired an actor who posed as a pimp and told Planned Parenthood counselors that he might have contracted a sexually transmitted disease from “one of the girls I manage.” He followed up with questions about

how to obtain contraceptives and abortions, while indicating that some of his “girls” were under age and illegally in the country.

One counselor, shockingly, gave the “pimp” advice on how to game the system and was summarily fired when the video came out. But the others seem to have answered his questions accurately and flatly. Planned Parenthood says that after the man left, all the counselors—including the one who was fired—reported the conversation to their supervisors, who called the authorities. (One Arizona police department, the organization said, refused to file a report.)

Still, there is no way to look good while providing useful information to a self-proclaimed child molester, even if the cops get called. That, presumably, is why Live Action chose the scenario.

“We have a zero tolerance of nonreporting anything that would endanger a minor,” said Cecile Richards, the president of Planned Parenthood. “We do the same thing public hospitals do and public clinics do.”

Collins concentrates on the most recently released Live Action videos and excludes all previous undercover recordings. There is clearly a pattern at Planned Parenthood. Whether it is circumvention of law or taking money for the explicit purpose of killing black preborn babies (see “‘Racist’ Donations Prove Unsettling,” *The Caleb Report*, March-April 2008), PPFA has a major problem that cannot be dealt with by blaming employees.

While there is no way to confirm that a “zero tolerance” policy is actually enforced, if one even exists, the fact remains that Planned Parenthood seeks to separate itself from its own employees. Of course, when a pregnancy help center *volunteer* does the wrong thing, Planned Parenthood quickly paints all of them with the same brush.

But here's the most notable thing about this whole debate: The people trying to put Planned Parenthood out of business do not seem concerned about what would happen to the 1.85 million low-income women who get family-planning help and medical care at the clinics each year. It just doesn't come up. There's not even a vague contingency plan.

“I haven't seen that they want to propose an alternative,” said Richards.

H.R. 217 would not put PPFA out of business. After all, the group has nearly \$400 million in a *savings* account. The legislation is similar to the Mexico City Policy and Title X Regulations (both upheld in court) first implemented by President Ronald W. Reagan. When Planned Parenthood was forced to separate its abortion activities from its other “services,” the group balked and, consequently, did not get government funds. Yet the monstrosity still exists. It was Planned Parenthood's choice. The problem now is that Planned Parenthood is specifically the target of the bill, which negatively impacts its image.

There are tens of millions Americans who oppose abortion because of deeply held moral principles. But they're attached to a political movement that sometimes seems to have come unmoored from any concern for life after birth.

There is no comparable organization to Planned Parenthood, providing the same kind of services on a national basis. If there were, most of the women eligible for Medicaid-financed family-planning assistance wouldn't have to go without it. In Texas, which has one of the highest teenage birthrates in the country, only about 20 percent of low-income women get that kind of help. Yet Planned Parenthood is under attack, and the State Legislature has diverted some of its funding to crisis pregnancy centers, which provide no medical care and tend to be staffed by volunteers dedicated to dissuading women from having abortions.

In Washington, the new Republican majority that promised to do great things about jobs...is preparing for hearings on a bill to make it economically impossible for insurance companies to offer policies that cover abortions. And in Texas, Gov. Rick Perry, faced with an epic budget crisis that's left the state's schools and health care services in crisis, has brought out emergency legislation—requiring mandatory sonograms for women considering abortion.



Richards

Since Planned Parenthood officials are fond of saying abortion makes up only three percent of its business, it should not be hard for the group to take the deadly act out of the equation. If Planned Parenthood was to stop committing abortions it would receive Title X funding. If Planned Parenthood leaders are really concerned about the loss of “basic health care services” for the poor, they will quickly abandon their abortion worship. Their unwillingness to do so proves that the alleged demise of health care for the poor is absurd—or Planned Parenthood does not really care about the poor. Clearly, there is one thing Planned Parenthood’s hierarchy loves more than money.

### THE PRAYER PROJECT

Please join us in daily prayer for the people who are active in the Pro-Abortion Movement and those who have not been strong in their claimed pro-life convictions:

January: President **Barack Hussein Obama II**; February: **Members of Congress** who claim to be pro-life but want the issue to take a back seat; March: pro-abortion **Members of Congress** seeking to protect taxpayer funding for Planned Parenthood; April: Canadian Prime Minister **Stephen J. Harper** who has prohibited pro-life members of his majority Conservative Party in Parliament from pursuing protective legislation; and May: **Janet L. Robinson**, president and chief executive officer of boycott target The New York Times Company

### QUOTABLE QUOTE

“Abortion dismembers children piece by piece.”

- Rep. Christopher H. Smith, R-N.J., supporting the Pence Amendment

### EVENT WILL HONOR PRO-LIFE LEADER

One of America’s best known and beloved pro-life leaders will receive much deserved recognition at “An Evening of Tribute to Joe Scheidler.” The event will take place on April 2, 2011 in Chicago.



Scheidler

Affectionately known as “the father of pro-life activism,” Joseph M. Scheidler is director of the Pro-Life Action League, which works to save lives through direct activism. Scheidler is the author of *Closed: 99 Ways to Stop Abortion* and producer of several pro-life videos including “Meet the Abortion Providers” and “Abortion: The Inside Story.” He is also a member of LDI’s Board of Advisors

Scheidler has been featured in the national media as the chief defendant in a Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) lawsuit brought by the National Organization for Women and two abortion facilities. Originally filed in 1986, *NOW v. Scheidler* was not put to rest until 2006 when the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that RICO, which was written to make it easier for law enforcement to bring down organized crime, does not apply to pro-life activists.

Over the years Scheidler has become an expert on the abortion culture, sidewalk counseling, the spiritual dimension of pro-life activism, fetal experimentation, working with the media, the responsibility of the church to fight abortion, battling the courts, and the need for a return to morality. He resides in Chicago with his wife, Ann. They have seven children and 18 grandchildren.

**DETAILS:** For more information or to purchase tickets for “An Evening of Tribute to Joe Scheidler,” call (517) 546-3092. After March 14<sup>th</sup> please call (517) 402-5541.

### UPDATE: CORPORATE FUNDING PROJECT

The most recently released edition of *The Boycott List* is dated December 2010. Craig Taylor Inc., Kohl’s Corporation, Mrs. Fields Original Cookies Inc., and McGraw-Hill Companies Inc. are no longer boycott targets.

To date, at least 276 corporations have stopped funding Planned Parenthood. Congratulations to all of those dedicated pro-life men, women and children who are responsible for these victories!

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