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successful at prompting a Catholic foundation to defund community organizations (including SR) for even appearing to work with groups such as Planned Parenthood. It feels like the latest House vote to defund Planned Parenthood is a culmination of these different groups, including a growing Tea Party movement. In your opinion, how can we combat these growing movements that cross issues, including women's rights, poverty, labor?

D.G.: The effort to defund Planned Parenthood and eliminate family planning funding isn't new. Rep. Mike Pence (R-Ind.) has introduced similar resolutions to defund before, but what is new is the fact that most of the U.S. House of Representatives are now anti-women and anti-choice.

One of the most important things people can do is stand up and make their voices heard. Talk to friends, family, coworkers and community members about why Planned Parenthood, family planning, and women's rights are important to you. One in five women in the United States has used Planned Parenthood's services, and they know the vital part we play in improving the health and lives of women and families. It's important that people talk about why they support these issues and why they are important to our community. We can't sit quietly and assume that politicians will do the right thing, or that our issues will be a priority.

I.B.: Hearing you speak this year at an event, you told a story about two individuals in your lobby that had impacted you personally, and was a testament to the work Planned Parenthood does. Can you tell that story for us?

D.G.: One morning last year I noticed a young couple standing in our new Regional Service Center's parking lot. They were looking at each other and holding hands. They seemed to be having a very serious conversation. A short time later I saw them sitting on a bench; he had his arm around her, and her head was on his shoulder.

I noticed them throughout the day. They held each other; they embraced; they walked out of our building and later returned to sit in the lobby. It seemed as though they were trying to make a difficult decision together and had found a safe place to be together.

Late in the afternoon they left. I don't know exactly why they had come to Planned Parenthood nor do I know what they decided.

Planned Parenthood helps people make the choices that are right for them, and I felt proud that we could offer this couple whatever professional help they needed and a place where they felt comfortable.

I.B.: Now that the House vote has passed to defund Planned Parenthood, what are the next steps?



PHOTO BY JOANNE ZUHL

A participant at the Feb. 21 demonstration. She said many years ago she didn't have health insurance and couldn't afford care, but went to Planned Parenthood. She was diagnosed there with cervical cancer, treated and is now cancer free.

D.G.: Next week, the Senate will have the opportunity to restore funding for Planned Parenthood. We do have a narrow margin of support in the Senate and we will continue to shore up the votes needed to continue to be able to provide health care for all those who need it.

I.B.: Where do Oregon Sens. Ron Wyden, and Jeff Merkley stand on the issue?

D.G.: Senator Merkley and Senator Wyden have demonstrated their commitment to protecting women's health over the last few decades. Our request is that our senators stand up as champions for Planned Parenthood to ensure that we can continue to provide affordable, quality health care to women in our state.

I.B.: What would happen locally if federal funding ceases to exist for Planned Parenthood?

D.G.: Cutting funding for both Title X and Planned Parenthood would be devastating for women and families. Without the services provided by Title X funding, the level of abortion in Oregon would be 51

percent higher. Also, without these vital services the level of teen pregnancy in Oregon would be 55 percent higher. By helping women avoid unintended pregnancies and the births that would follow, the services provided at centers in Oregon, like Planned Parenthood, saved \$18,199,000 in public funds in 2008.

We don't know exactly what this would mean for Planned Parenthood's ability to serve women and families in Oregon and SW Washington. In Oregon, over 2,000 women come to a Planned Parenthood health center every week, and each year thousands of teens receive comprehensive sex education through our programs. Since Federal support helps pay for over three quarters of these programs, eliminating all funding would be devastating for those for whom we are their only health care provider.

I.B.: Anything else you would like to add?

D.G.: We are doing everything in our power to reverse the U.S. House of Representatives' decision to defund family planning and Planned Parenthood because the health of America's families depends on making affordable health care available.

For 95 years, Planned Parenthood has

provided medical care and family planning services to women across the country. One in five American women has received care from a Planned Parenthood health center during her lifetime, and last year three million patients came to one of our more than 800 health centers. We are trusted by millions of women and families, and we deliver care to those who need it most.

This policy of attempting to undermine Planned Parenthood, the organization in the United States that does more than any other to encourage the use of contraception for those wanting to avoid pregnancy, certainly guarantees an increase in the number of unintended pregnancies. It is difficult to understand why people who say they are opposed to abortion would do so much to undermine the family planning and contraception that helps prevent the need for it.

To be clear, the amendment to prohibit Planned Parenthood from receiving federal funding does nothing to reduce the deficit and it does nothing to improve the economy. In fact, health professionals will actually lose their jobs as a result, and, most egregiously, it takes health care away from American women who cannot afford to pay for it on their own.



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