



## Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin

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### **Speaker Paul Ryan Lies About Access to Health Care in Wisconsin**

**MADISON** – During a CNN town hall meeting Thursday night, Speaker Paul Ryan lied to a patient who relies on Planned Parenthood by claiming she would have many other places to go for her health care if he is successful in kicking Planned Parenthood out of the Medicaid program. The reality is that ending funding for preventive care at Planned Parenthood would devastate essential health care access among the country's and state's most vulnerable populations – most prominently in in Paul Ryan's own back yard.

Statement from Nicole Safar, Government Relations Director at Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin:

“If Paul Ryan really wanted women to get the health care they need, he would not propose ending Planned Parenthood's ability to serve 50,000 people in Wisconsin, leaving most of them without another provider. As a part of the public health network in Wisconsin, no one knows better than Planned Parenthood the lack of access people in our state already face. We have been unable to identify alternative health care providers who are able to absorb Planned Parenthood's patients in Wisconsin -- including in Paul Ryan's own district.

“In 73% of the counties PPWI serves, there is not a provider who could absorb Planned Parenthood's patients. In those rare communities where there are other community health care providers, many would be unable to meet our patients' need if Planned Parenthood could not provide care.

“In fact, more than 6,000 people living in Speaker Ryan's own district rely on Planned Parenthood for cancer screenings, STD testing and treatment and birth control. On behalf of these patients, we ask Speaker Ryan where these people go for health care? Community based health centers like Planned Parenthood are critical for especially vulnerable patients without easy access to other providers.

“Even with Planned Parenthood's continued care, there is a tremendous unmet need for health care in Wisconsin and in Speaker Paul Ryan's own district. In Ryan's district specifically, STD rates, teen births, poverty, infant mortality and unemployment rates are all higher than the state average. We've been hearing from leaders, partners and patients across Wisconsin, including those in the Speaker's district. What they all know is ensuring continued access to a trusted and affordable community health care provider like Planned Parenthood is something we should all agree is important to help keep our communities safe, healthy and strong.”

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*Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin is the advocacy arm of Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin.  
PPAWI engages in legislative and educational activity and works to elect candidates to office that support these goals.*