



Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 8, 2017

Contact: Iris Riis
920-412-3336
iris.riis@ppwi.org

Planned Parenthood Supporters Pack the Capitol Ahead of Gov. Scott Walker's Budget Address

MADISON – During Gov. Scott Walker's budget address, supporters of women's health are gathering to call on Wisconsin lawmakers to restore and protect funding for Planned Parenthood, Wisconsin. During his inaugural state budget in 2011, Walker blocked all state funding from Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, the state's oldest and most trusted nonprofit reproductive health care provider. Today, Speaker Paul Ryan is proposing to go even further by ending Medicaid reimbursements for patient care provided only at Planned Parenthood, which is the largest safety net health care provider in the state of Wisconsin.

Since losing *state* funding in 2011, Planned Parenthood was forced to close five rural, family planning health centers. These health centers were in Shawano, Chippewa Falls, Beaver Dam, Fond du Lac and Johnson Creek. Together these health centers provided over 18,000 health services to more than 3,000 patients each year. [No other provider](#) has opened to serve patients in these communities. [Public health officials have been clear](#) – reducing access to basic reproductive health care increases poor health outcomes.

“In Wisconsin, we know what happens when Planned Parenthood health centers close. People go without essential health care,” said Nicole Safar, Government Relations Director for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin. “Speaker Ryan, who is now proposing blocking Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid reimbursements, should understand that a law like this would put Wisconsin's most vulnerable communities at risk. Without Planned Parenthood, many of our patients would have no other provider.”

No state or federal funding goes toward abortion services. Medicaid reimbursements for patients receiving health care at Planned Parenthood facilitates access to essential reproductive health care like cancer screenings, well woman exams, STD testing and treatment and birth control.

“Access to preventive and life saving diagnostic health care is something we should all be able to agree on,” said Safar. “Today we are asking Governor Walker and our elected leaders to ensure that men and women in our state have access to affordable and high quality preventative health care. Wisconsinites need more points of access – not less.”

###

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.