



Planned Parenthood Advocates of Wisconsin

Governor Scott Walker
Wisconsin State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Governor Walker,

As you set your vision today for the next two years in our state, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin, our 60,000 patients and hundreds of thousands of supporters across this state have a question for you: what is your plan to ensure that men and women in our state have access to affordable and high quality preventative health care?

Your last two budgets have been woefully lacking in offering a solution for people in our state who find health care options out of reach. Since 2011, when you eliminated Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin from the state's family planning program, you and your supporters have done a lot of talking with very little action.

Over 3,100 patients in Shawano, Beaver Dam, Fond du Lac, Chippewa Falls and Johnson Creek lost their primary health care provider because of your 2011 budget. At the time, you claimed no one would lose their health care – what do you say now to these patients, still struggling five years later?

You've left local communities floundering. From a recent [article](#), public health leaders are speaking out:

“They've never replaced the services of Planned Parenthood,” said Gail Scott, director of health in Jefferson County, Wisconsin. Her county, which lost the Johnson Creek Planned Parenthood in 2013...”

“Chippewa County, Wisconsin, also lost its Planned Parenthood clinic. Jean Durch, the county health director at the time who is now retired, recalled that after the closure, there was no place in Chippewa for women to receive STI tests, even though her department sought the funding to make it happen.

“We never were able, before I retired, to pick up the full complement of services” of Planned Parenthood, she said.”

With your 2017 budget, you have the opportunity to reverse this disastrous course. The women and men who come to Planned Parenthood every day are not making a political statement. They are coming for high quality, affordable health care. Today, you can decide to stand with them and ensure they have access to the care they need, no matter what community they live in. Please reinstate state funding to Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Nicole Safar
Director of Government Relations and Legal Advocacy