

# Planned Distraction, Repeated Exploitation: Planned Parenthood Once Again Massively Overbilling Wisconsin Taxpayers

Just another infraction on a long list

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At the start of the 2015-16 legislative session, we were joined by 30 of our colleagues in the Wisconsin legislature in requesting that the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB) conduct “a comprehensive, independent audit of Wisconsin’s Medicaid family planning providers, including Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin”, in particular requesting “a thorough investigation of their billing practices.” This request came in light of repeated red flags and massive overbilling revealed in Wisconsin and nationally. The Audit Committee co-chairs made additional inquiries of the WI Department of Health Services (DHS), and while no additional audits were undertaken by the committee, the information gleaned proved helpful toward successful legislative efforts to prevent future misuse of taxpayer dollars. Yet there is still much work to be done, and we hope that a future comprehensive audit will be conducted to provide a fuller picture of the extent of the overbilling and prevent the further misuse of taxpayer funds.

While Planned Parenthood of WI Policy Director Nicole Safar brashly asserted last year that “Any sort of audit of family planning providers is only going to show widespread compliance”, one need only fast forward to the beginning of this month, when audits by the WI DHS Office of Inspector General (OIG) showed that out of a limited scope audit sample of \$131,543.10 worth of billing from 2014, the state was overcharged \$63,812.63 by several Planned Parenthood clinics and a handful of other family planning providers- almost 50% of the total charges examined. As the total amount billed to taxpayers by these entities in the past few years alone easily stretches into the tens of millions of dollars, it would not be a surprise to uncover millions of dollars in overpayments to Planned Parenthood alone within a single calendar year- state level audits across the country in recent years have totaled well over \$100 Million in overpayments to Planned Parenthood, without even a concerted effort to look at the vast majority of billing that has occurred. Here are just a few of the repeated transgressions uncovered by the DHS OIG:

- Prescription not signed by a valid prescriber;
- Quantity billed does not match quantity dispensed;
- Reimbursement in excess of amount permitted,
- Inaccurately “up-coding” visits to obtain a higher reimbursement rate
- Reimbursement for a duplicative drug that was not medically necessary.

The closure of Planned Parenthood's abortion facility in Grand Chute, announced within the past week, is an all-too-convenient distraction from the most recent revelations of their repeated bilking of taxpayers. And it should be no secret that Planned Parenthood had been unable to recruit new abortionists for that or any other location; for several years now, WI's abortion giant has depended upon an agreement with the University of Wisconsin-Madison to supply the abortionists for their now abortion-only facility in our State's Capitol. Planned Parenthood literally "purchases" contract hours from UW in order for salaried, state government employees with generous taxpayer-funded benefits to come to its abortuary and end the lives of innocent children. It's an arrangement that clearly violates the spirit, if not the letter, of Wisconsin law and it demands swift legislative action in the upcoming session to put an end to it.

Planned Parenthood has made a killing from government programs to maximize its profit off of taxpayers. Most health professionals know that if they were to overcharge the taxpayers (or anyone else, for that matter) with such regularity, they would be facing fraud charges and looking at \$10,000 fines per incidence along with jail time. Of course, Planned Parenthood isn't a real healthcare facility, so they act like the rules shouldn't apply to them and run to their allies for sweetheart subsidies (and in at least one prominent situation, putting them on the payroll) and political asylum for their transgressions.

Planned Parenthood's great expense to Wisconsin, and women and families throughout the U.S. is all too real. While they enjoy spending your tax dollars to pad their own bottom line, their services are anything but 'free'.

Planned Parenthood is an outdated concept that hurts women. The United States has quality healthcare that goes far beyond an occasional trip to an impersonal clinic that provides only a very basic level of services. Comprehensive healthcare requires a doctor patient relationship that goes farther than Planned Parenthood. Women should reject such a false sense of security. Why would you trust an uninspected facility operated by a group of people whose integrity seems to be under constant scrutiny?

It is time we demand that Planned Parenthood is completely defunded.

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