

## Why is Planned Parenthood a “sacred cow”?

by Barb Yagley

As the federal budget debate raged on, the issue of funding for Planned Parenthood inspired some seriously melodramatic and bad-faith rhetoric. One House Democrat accused pro-life Republicans of wanting to “kill women” and compared them to Nazis. The Senate Majority Whip “negotiated” by promising that “the dangerous, ideological cuts to Planned Parenthood that passed the House are never, never, never going to pass the Senate.” Forty-one Senate Democrats willingly held military families and federal employees hostage by signing a resolution to reject any budget deal that did not include #1 abortion provider, Planned Parenthood. These Democrats (including every one in the Michigan delegation) have overlooked Planned Parenthood's widespread refusal to report statutory rape or to notify parents when their minor daughters seek abortion services or oral contraception. Summaries of **third-party** evidence of these Planned Parenthood abuses can be found on the Oakland County Right to Life website, [www.oaklandrtl.org/stop\\_pariah.html](http://www.oaklandrtl.org/stop_pariah.html)).

In Michigan, Planned Parenthood is the only abortion provider who receives Title X funds; the other recipients are county or district health departments and the Campus Health Center near Wayne State University.

Planned Parenthood claims to be about “health care”, but its care is limited to sex organs. In Michigan, 147 Federal Qualified Health Centers provide the same health services as Planned Parenthood (except abortion). In addition, these FQHCs (and 53 non-profit Free Clinics) provide “whole person” health care to address chronic conditions like hypertension, diabetes, asthma, emphysema and cardiovascular disease, the leading killer in Michigan.

The FQHCs and Free Clinics of Michigan render Planned Parenthood redundant as a government subsidized healthcare provider. Let Planned Parenthood use its abortion profits to underwrite its educational, advocacy and so-called family planning services like the other abortionists do and leave the taxpayer out of it.

Why would Representatives Gary Peters and Sander Levin vote against defunding Planned Parenthood?

Why would Senators Stabenow and Levin commit to shutting down the Federal government rather than deprive Planned Parenthood?

Your guess is as good as mine but it seems little to do with “women's health” and nothing to do with juvenile health. The STD pandemic on teen girls rages unabated – a problem we did not have in 1970 when the Federal government decided to get into the family planning business with Title X. Our federal representatives' slavish loyalty to Planned Parenthood makes no sense.

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See: <http://www.theoaklandpress.com/articles/2011/04/26/opinion/doc4db75ba408ca6711721156.txt>  
for article and comments in response.