

Oppose Defunding Planned Parenthood

The Virginia Pro-Choice Coalition Planned Parenthood opposes the following amendments to House Bill 1600 and Senate Bill 850: 4-5.05#1s, 4-5.04#1h and 4-5.04#3h. To ensure that thousands of women across Virginia have access to comprehensive medical services we respectfully request that these budget amendments are not included in the 2008-2010 Biennium Budget.

In Virginia, there are nine Planned Parenthood health centers, operated by four Planned Parenthood affiliates. Planned Parenthood is the nation's leading sexual and reproductive health care advocate and provider. Their mission is to ensure that individuals and families have the freedom, information, and ability to make their own informed reproductive choices.

NO STATE FUNDS ARE UTILIZED TO FUND ABORTIONS OR ABORTION RELATED SERVICES

These amendments would prohibit any Planned Parenthood entity from receiving any state general fund, non-general fund, or special funds for preventative medical services or educational programs. The language would prohibit the free access of women, particularly Medicaid recipients, from taking advantage of the necessary and critical medical services Planned Parenthood offers.

The core of Planned Parenthood affiliate medical service is contraception and accompanying health care, education, and information. The overwhelming majority of Planned Parenthood services focus on prevention.

- Family Planning Counseling and Services
- Free Pregnancy Testing and Options Education
- Low Cost Birth Control
- Emergency Contraception
- Annual Gynecological Exam
- Cancer screenings: Pap Smear, Breast Exams (Health services, cont'd.)
- Colposcopy and Cryotherapy
- HPV Vaccination
- Testing and Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections (women and men)
- HIV Testing (women and men)
- Safe and confidential first trimester abortions
- Adoption through a partnership with the Children's Home Society of Virginia
- Prenatal Care

Education Programs

Planned Parenthood education programs cover many content areas, such as AIDS/HIV, contraception/family planning – including abstinence, family life education, parent-child communication, puberty education, safer sex, sexual orientation/homophobia, sexuality education, sexually transmitted infections, teenage pregnancy, and women's health. In addition to education programs, training programs are provided to community agencies and professionals working with children, teens, and young adults.

- **Postponing Sexual Involvement** is an abstinence-based program emphasizing communication skills, decision making and peer pressure refusal skills.
- **Becoming a Responsible Teen** encourages the understanding of sexual development, feelings and values as well as ways to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.
- **The Brothers** is a mentoring program that pairs valuable male role models with 5th grade boys to help them make healthy choices and set future goals.
- **More than Shelter** pairs free clinic services for homeless women with educational programming on gynecological care, sexually transmitted infections and healthy relationships.

