

Dear

*Planned
Parenthood*

LOVE LETTERS FROM CATHOLICS

Dear

*Planned
Parenthood*

LOVE LETTERS FROM CATHOLICS

A Letter from the President:



We all have those times in our lives when we badly need a friend; when we need help.

For many people, especially those who fall on hard economic times, that friend is Planned Parenthood. You have been a safe place where women can get the care they need without judgment or condemnation.

Planned Parenthood provides critical reproductive healthcare services for some of the poorest and most vulnerable people in American society, reaching underserved populations around the country. It's an organization that epitomizes social good. As Catholics, we have an obligation to stand up for the conscience rights of all individuals when it comes to personal, private decisions such as abortion, family planning and reproductive healthcare.

In the summer of 2015, the antichoice group Center for Medical Progress released misleading videos that accused Planned Parenthood of “selling” fetal tissue. The videos were disseminated in the most explosive manner possible to ensure Planned Parenthood would be targeted by antiabortion factions in Congress and candidates in the next presidential election. The goal is deeply political and it's not grounded in reality. The truth is: nowhere in the video does a staff member from Planned Parenthood discuss “selling” fetal tissue. As Catholics who care about the common good, we think it's critical that fetal tissue is donated to help find cures for diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. We believe it's moral, ethical—and downright necessary—when done according to a patient's wishes and within the legal guidelines.

This attack is part of an effort to defund and discredit Planned Parenthood and make abortion even harder to access, especially for poor women and women of color. It's part of an elaborate smokescreen that the antiabortion movement is using to distract the media and politicians from the real issue at stake.

When Catholics for Choice shared news of this deceptive and disgraceful attack on Planned Parenthood with our Catholic constituents, they wanted to speak out.

State policymakers have already spoken up. During the height of congressional battles over defunding Planned Parenthood, Catholics for Choice brought together more than 90 Catholic state leaders from 31 states, who signed an open letter vowing to stand with Planned Parenthood. Appearing first in the *Washington Post* and later in *Politico*, the letter declared our Catholic commitment to stand with Planned Parenthood in the face of continued attacks from extremist groups and antichoice members of Congress who threaten to defund the organization. But it's not only the Catholic leaders who want to vocalize their support—everyday Catholics do as well, in overwhelming numbers.

This publication is full of love for Planned Parenthood. We collected letters from everyday Catholics around the country who wanted to let every worker at Planned Parenthood know that Catholics care about them and the work they do. Within these pages, you'll read love letters from college students and teenagers who shared their personal experiences with Planned Parenthood. You'll also read stories from men and women who remember what access to abortion was like before *Roe v. Wade*.

As we look to the next presidential election and beyond, it is critical that Catholics and others who believe in freedom of conscience for all speak up for women who need abortions and for the providers who care for them. The social justice that drives our Catholic faith expects nothing less of each of us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jon O'Brien." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jon O'Brien

President

"I WILL NEVER FORGET THE RELIEF I FELT
WHEN I TALKED TO THE DOCTOR AT THE CLINIC.
I NO LONGER FELT ALONE."



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thanks for being there. My mother used you when I was a small girl (I am now 70) and always appreciated that you were there for her when she needed help.

Please keep up the good work.

Carol
Florida



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

YOU WERE THERE FOR MY SISTER WHEN SHE HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO TURN. FROM WHAT SHE TOLD ME, YOU GAVE HER SOUND, NONJUDGMENTAL ADVICE, LISTENED TO HER AND REALLY TOOK CARE OF HER. YOU MADE HER FEEL SAFE.

I SUPPORT YOU. I THINK YOU'RE ALL HEROES. PLEASE STAY STRONG IN THE LIGHT OF THIS HIGHLY ILL-INFORMED PUBLIC OUTCRY, AND REMEMBER THAT YOU'RE TRULY MAKING WOMEN'S LIVES BETTER.

ALL MY THANKS. MY BEST WISHES TO YOU.

KELSEY
VIRGINIA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for showing up to work today, which is, in our current political environment, no less than an act of bravery.

As a Catholic committed to social justice and human rights, I am so grateful that you are there doing the job that you do to protect our basic human rights.

Please know that many Catholics out there recognize your commitment and offer moral support to ensure you can continue to do what you do.

Thank you,

Dawne
Iowa



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I have used your services, volunteered at your centers and donated to your cause. I have been, and always will be, in total support of everything you do.

We know this is a battle for good, and evil will always try to defeat good. That will not happen with brave citizens like your employees and doctors, who are at the front lines every day.

Thank you,

Shelley
California

Thanks Planned Parenthood!

You helped me take charge
of my fertility and now
my 3 daughters have
each been able to use
your services.

Fertility is an incredible
responsibility and in an
ideal world, a decision
about whether or when
to have a child would
never be taken lightly.

Thanks for getting us
closer to that ideal!

Megan



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A FORMER LABOR AND DELIVERY NURSE OF 35 YEARS, I KNOW WE NEED PLANNED PARENTHOOD.

IT PROVIDES WONDERFUL SUPPORT AND EDUCATION FOR LIFE'S CHOICES ABOUT PARENTHOOD THAT SOME DO NOT GET AT HOME OR SCHOOL.

PAMELA
WASHINGTON



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Catholics do stand with Planned Parenthood—you can be sure!

Thank you for the work you do. It's important work!

Sincerely,

Larry and Sandra
Wisconsin



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

MY HUSBAND WAS RAISED CATHOLIC AND I AM PROTESTANT. I STAND WITH CATHOLICS FOR CHOICE. I HAVE BEEN SO THANKFUL FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD BEING THERE. I KNOW THAT YOU DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PREVENT ABORTION, BUT SOMETIMES PEOPLE MAKE MISTAKES. I WANT TO LIVE IN A WORLD WHERE ALL BABIES ARE WANTED AND LOVED.

SINCERELY,

KARI
HAWAII

In the long run, abortions
save lives. Go to it: P.P. —

Ally



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

MY FAITH TOLD ME TO BELIEVE WE SHOULD ALL HELP THOSE WHO NEED HELP. I APPLAUD PLANNED PARENTHOOD FOR DOING JUST THAT. AND FOR STANDING TRUE AGAINST THE VICIOUS LIES OF THOSE WHO ARE SO AGAINST ABORTION THAT THEY WILL LET WOMEN SUFFER AND/OR DIE WITHOUT YOUR SERVICES. I SUPPORT YOU 100 PERCENT.

CHERYL
OHIO



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for all you do for women and their health. You are an important addition to our healthcare system.

Shirley
Colorado



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I have used Planned Parenthood when I needed checkups and had no insurance. My Catholic faith tells me to respect a woman's conscience-based decision to utilize your services.

Consuelo
Washington

Planned Parenthood is a
vitaly important service to
young, poor, intimidated,
bullied, disenfranchised
and marginalized women
in American society.
We must protect them and it

N.



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I BELIEVE IN SOCIAL JUSTICE
AND THAT DENYING WOMEN HEALTHCARE IS A
VIOLATION OF THAT BELIEF. THE POOR ESPECIALLY
BENEFIT FROM PLANNED PARENTHOOD.

TISSUE DONATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR CURING
DISEASES THAT RAVAGE ALL AMERICANS.

I STAND WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD AND ALL THE
GOOD WORK IT DOES AND WILL CONTINUE TO DO.

JOE
PENNSYLVANIA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I applaud the work you do. Abortion is a woman's choice and hers alone. Also, thank you for all the other work you do—birth control, breast cancer screenings, STD testing, etc. Do not ever stop.

Susan
Florida



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I wanted to make sure you know that not all Catholics buy into the official bullying of the government by church leaders and various other religious conservatives in regards to family planning. Please know that many of us are standing behind you to defend against the abominable recent attacks on your organization.

I am also proud to say that I am a member of a great parish that has high regard for women's issues, and is supportive of LGBT inclusion and many other progressive issues.

Keep fighting the good fight.

Sincerely,

Natalia
New York



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A LIFELONG AND DEDICATED CATHOLIC, I SUPPORT YOUR WORK. WOMEN MUST HAVE CONTROL AND CHOICE, AND YOUR SERVICES PROVIDE THAT AND MUCH MORE. I APPRECIATE WHAT YOU DO FOR WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE.

SINCERELY,

RUTH
OREGON



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thanks for doing what makes sense. Thank you for your continuing support of women.

Dorothy
Texas

8/29/2015

Dear Planned Parenthood,

I am a faithful, Catholic grandmother who "came of age" before Roe v. Wade. I remain so grateful to you for your work and witness. Too often the sanctity of being a woman is threatened by the voices of fear, hate and misrepresentation. Without you, countless women would be victimized by the roulette of their biology. I will continue to be thankful and affirm your goodness.

Linda



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for all you do to keep women and our families healthy. As a Catholic, I support the integral role you play in the lives of women living in poverty, especially.

Lauren
New York



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

YOU HELP OTHERS IN NEED IN SO MANY GOOD WAYS.
I SUPPORT YOU AND YOUR MISSION.
I BELIEVE IN WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS.
NED
WISCONSIN



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thanks for all the good work you do for women and their families. People who do not like the work that Planned Parenthood performs have never needed their services.

To those against Planned Parenthood I say, "Mind your own business. No one is forcing you to do anything, and women will not be forced to follow whatever ignorance you choose to follow."

Rebecca
Louisiana

Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for standing
up for women's reproductive rights.

I am a 22 year old Catholic woman
who sees the value in the services
you provide to women. Know
that you are not alone & that
there are people of faith
who will stand by you.

Alison - N.D.



Dear Planned Parenthood,

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!!

Mimi
Utah



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I STAND WITH YOU. MY FAITH TEACHES ME TO CARE FOR MY NEIGHBORS AND HELP THE POOR. YOUR SERVICES ARE VITAL TO THAT END. THE HEALTHCARE YOU PROVIDE MEN, WOMEN AND FAMILIES IS ESSENTIAL TO ENSURE THEIR HEALTH. IT IS NOT MY POSITION TO JUDGE OR CAST BLAME ON PEOPLE'S INDIVIDUAL CHOICES.

THANK YOU FOR THE WORK YOU DO IN OUR COMMUNITIES EVERY DAY. I STRIVE EACH DAY TO SPREAD THE WORD AMONG MY FELLOW CATHOLICS. I PRAY OUR COUNTRY SEES THE VALUE YOUR MISSION PROVIDES TO THE COMMUNITIES YOU SERVE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIRELESS AND THANKLESS WORK.

LAUREN
NEW YORK



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic woman I have great compassion for the poor and other women, regardless of their faith. I firmly believe that Planned Parenthood is doing a great job and should be supported.

Marianne
Connecticut



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for helping me so long ago when I was a struggling college student and needed birth control, to which you wisely added a Pap smear and pelvic exam. And thank you for helping all the women who followed after me! I will always support and speak up for you!

Candice
Texas



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

THANK YOU FOR SAVING LIVES. YOU PROVIDE INFORMATION AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO WOMEN AROUND THE WORLD TO WHOM IT WOULD NOT OTHERWISE BE AVAILABLE. AS CATHOLICS, WE ARE CALLED BY OUR FAITH TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH AND COMPASSION FOR THE POOR.

JENNIE
MICHIGAN

My support for Planned Parenthood

I am a Catholic committed to issues of peace and justice, especially where women's rights are concerned. Of course, I strongly support Planned Parenthood, as I have for many years. I give thanks and support for this good + necessary work.

Genivim



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic woman, I stand with Planned Parenthood, especially during these troubled times. I feel that abortion is already such a hard thing to go through that there shouldn't be people who make this decision even harder by layering it with guilt. It makes no sense to me that my church preaches "life at conception" and that "we must protect these lives," but then has brochures for judgmental Catholic counseling/support groups for women who have had abortions. We do not know as individuals if this is a decision we would ever make—to keep an unplanned pregnancy or not—and it's one that depends on finances, medical needs and other circumstances. But I hope that any decision is made in good conscience and is the best one for the person—which is why it is called being "prochoice."

I stood with Planned Parenthood on my college campus just days after the most recent shooting. A month ago, a friend gave me a call and said that she had gone to see a doctor in town—that she had walked there but didn't feel comfortable walking back. I asked for the address and she gave it to me. When my GPS took me to the Planned Parenthood in town, I instantly became fearful for my life.

I was a college-aged woman pulling into this parking lot—what were people thinking of me right now? Was anyone going to say something to me? It turned out that nothing happened. I picked up my friend and I left. I didn't ask why she was there—if she ever wants to divulge that information to me, than that is her choice. However, I did ask why she felt uncomfortable walking back to campus, as she and I dorm in the same building and it really isn't that far away. She said that when she was walking into the parking lot a man came up to her and was harassing her, so she didn't want to walk back alone.

I stand with Planned Parenthood for many reasons. Women shouldn't have to feel fear or guilt for the decisions they have made. Women should feel safe if they're just walking into a health clinic for birth control pills.

Thank you for what you do. I am just now starting to find Catholics online who believe in what I believe. Catholics for Choice has almost 30k people following on Facebook. So we are out there, somewhere.

Thank you,

Samantha
New York

29 Oct 2015

Dear Planned Parenthood,

We respect and support the work you are doing here to provide contraception, tests for STIs, pap smears, and other critical healthcare. Your presence here saves many from grief and hardship.

NH Ritz

“AS A CATHOLIC PHYSICIAN, I AM CALLED BY MY
FAITH AND PROFESSION TO SERVE OTHERS.
THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME IN THAT MISSION.”



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Keep up the good work!

Roy
Oregon



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I STAND WITH PLANNED
PARENTHOOD. I KNOW MANY INDIVIDUALS IT HAS
HELPED A LOT!

JUDY
WASHINGTON



Dear Planned Parenthood,

We're with you.

Maureen
Massachusetts

Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thanks so much for all you do for women. As a Catholic physician, I am called by my faith and profession to serve others. Thank you for joining me in that mission. Your commitment to healthcare for all women, regardless of income, is meaningful and deep. I appreciate the lives you save through cancer screening, and the lives you will save by donating fetal tissue for biomedical research. My Catholic faith and professional standards tell me to respect each woman's conscience based decision. Thanks for doing that too.

Christine



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I believe that all people are beloved in the eyes of God. Reserving healthcare for only those who can afford it sends a clear message that some people's lives are more valued than others. Planned Parenthood offers quality, affordable healthcare to men and women regardless of ability to pay. This means that Planned Parenthood follows the Gospel mandate to take care of the least ones among us.

There is immorality in the Planned Parenthood funding debate. It lies with those who would force their values—often based on misinformation and outright lies—on others for political gain at the expense of those who desperately need the healthcare services Planned Parenthood provides. I am confident that despite the loud voices of the anti-Planned Parenthood extremists, most Americans, including Catholics, are rational, thinking beings, who are not easily deceived or misled by false appeals to our faith and our consciences. Keep up the great work, Planned Parenthood. We need you!

Louise
Alaska



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

WHEN I WAS A YOUNG WOMAN, I RELIED ON PLANNED PARENTHOOD FOR MY REPRODUCTIVE AND SEXUAL HEALTHCARE. PLANNED PARENTHOOD PROVIDERS WERE A CRITICAL PART OF MY EARLY SEXUAL DEVELOPMENT, AND FOR THEIR TIME AND SERVICES I WILL BE FOREVER GRATEFUL.

THANK YOU, PLANNED PARENTHOOD, FOR STANDING WITH WOMEN SO THEY CAN OVERCOME BARRIERS TO HEALTHCARE SERVICES. MAY YOU ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT YOU DO HAVE SUPPORTERS IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

JESSICA
FLORIDA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As both a woman and human rights activist, I respect a woman's conscience-based decision. I promote principles of social justice and compassion, including a commitment to ensuring that every woman receives care.

Thank you, Planned Parenthood, for standing with women.

Tamara
Illinois



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I stand with Planned Parenthood. A woman has a right to make her own decisions and not have her rights dictated to her.

In addition, research on several diseases depends on tissue donations.

Elmo
Florida



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

IT IS GOOD FOR MOMS AND MOMS-TO-BE TO
HAVE ACCESS TO GOOD HEALTHCARE. MAKE SURE
THAT CONTINUES.

JOHN
WASHINGTON



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I stand with Planned Parenthood!

As I age, I realize the importance of women making their own reproductive choices based on their needs and consciences.

I, as a Catholic, am called to show solidarity with and compassion for the poor. This includes the people who would benefit from research advances using donated tissue.

You, Planned Parenthood, are doing a great good and I thank you!

Patricia
Georgia



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I am a Catholic and I stand with Planned Parenthood.
I send support in my words, my emails to legislators
and contributions to my local PP.

Mary
Pennsylvania

Dear Planned Parenthood,

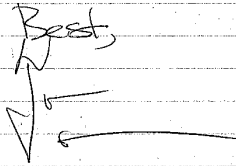
As a Catholic, I believe that your organization brings good across the country for millions of women in need of care. Without Planned Parenthood, many women would be unable to get screenings for breast cancer, pap smears, and obtain information about sexual health.

As a pro-choice Catholic, I believe that the abortion services provided by Planned Parenthood help women in some of the darkest situations they will ever find themselves in. While many people choose to judge these women, Planned Parenthood offers them support and the ability to realize they are neither sinful or alone. Whether they are terminating a pregnancy because they cannot afford to raise a child or the pregnancy has too many complications, a woman is showing mercy by ensuring a child will not be born into a life of hardship.

While many may say name it and claim the veto is precious,

these same people will ignore the child as soon as it is born. We need Planned Parenthood to stick up for American women and ~~themselves~~ their rights.

Lastly, Planned Parenthood offers a space without judgement. I worry that in a world without Planned Parenthood, girls will be unable to see care they need unless their parents support them. We need Planned Parenthood because lives will be put at risk.





DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

THANK YOU FOR CONTINUING TO PROVIDE ESSENTIAL WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES DESPITE ALL THE BACKLASH YOU HAVE RECEIVED. AS A PROCHOICE CATHOLIC, I BELIEVE A WOMAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO FOLLOW HER OWN CONSCIENCE IN MAKING DECISIONS ABOUT HER REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE. THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO, ESPECIALLY ABORTIONS.

LOVE,

CORINNE
WASHINGTON, DC



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Stay strong, stay focused and I/we thank you for your perseverance.

William
Kansas



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I was taught that God gave me a brain and the right to use it. Those who want to destroy Planned Parenthood think they know what is best for women. Planned Parenthood trusts women to make their own decisions, in consultation with their doctor and according to their own conscience.

I respect the work that Planned Parenthood does and I am grateful that the organization is strong and your mission is clear. I will continue to help Planned Parenthood in any way I can.

Kathleen
Washington

10/30/15

Support for Planned Parenthood,

What a sign of good will it would be if legislators who want to close Planned Parenthood took the time to learn about the work of Planned Parenthood. In reality they are harming thousands of women & men who use medical & educational services of Planned Parenthood.

I have done consent counseling for women prior to termination of a pregnancy. Over 6 yrs, I encountered a large number of reasons & values that led women to make that difficult decision. Planned Parenthood as a non-profit operates from values not profits.

Aue
Florida



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I AM PROCHOICE AND IN FULL
SUPPORT OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD.

THANK YOU,

STEFAN
TEXAS



Dear Planned Parenthood,

You helped me when I was younger and had little money and
support, like so many others.

Thank you so very, very much,

Gloria
New York



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for your continued efforts at assisting poor women in
staying healthy. Most of all, thank you for helping women to exercise
choice and control over their fertility.

Stephanie
Connecticut

My support for Planned Parenthood

I am a Catholic committed to issues of peace and justice, especially where women's rights are concerned. Of course, I strongly support Planned Parenthood, as I have for many years. I give thanks and support for this good + necessary work.

Geminium

“THANK YOU FOR THE CARE AND COMPASSION YOU
HAVE SHOWN TO SO MANY, INCLUDING MYSELF,
WITHIN THE WALLS OF YOUR CLINIC.
AS A CATHOLIC, AS A BROTHER,
AS A LATINO, THANK YOU.”



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, WE ARE CALLED BY OUR FAITH TO SHOW SOLIDARITY WITH AND COMPASSION FOR THE POOR—LIKE PLANNED PARENTHOOD DOES WITH ITS HEALTH SERVICES AND BY MAKING TISSUE DONATIONS POSSIBLE.

IT'S TIME WE FOLLOW JESUS. I MEAN REALLY FOLLOW JESUS AND HIS TEACHINGS. COMPASSION. ACCEPTANCE. FORGIVENESS.

PAT
ILLINOIS



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Keep up the good work.

With love,

Joyce
Wisconsin



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I thank you for making sure that all people have the opportunity to make their own choices regarding their reproductive health.

David
Texas



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

MY CATHOLIC FAITH TELLS ME TO RESPECT WOMEN
AND SUPPORT THEIR ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE.

THE MISREPRESENTATION OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD
BROUGHT ON BY THE ANTICHOICE BULLIES
BOTH ANGERS AND SADDENS ME. IT IS SIMPLY
INACCURATE AND UNFAIR. PLEASE CONTINUE TO
STAY STRONG AMIDST ALL OF THE NONSENSE.

KERRY
CONNECTICUT



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a non-practicing Catholic—but once a Catholic, always a Catholic—I know firsthand the great work that the organization does, not only here in the US but around the world. I have followed for years the attempts—and actual decisions—to defund Planned Parenthood on the sole issue of providing counseling on choice to women.

I have become very troubled by the manipulation of public opinion based on unsubstantiated slander about the organization's alleged practices.

Thank you for your excellent work, and for the intelligence and tenacity with which your leadership navigates the current troubled waters.

Sincerely,

Ileana
Florida

Dear Planned Parenthood workers,
Thank you so much
for all you do.

It is wonderful how
you take care of low
income women in this
country. They cannot
afford contraception. These

women also cannot afford
basic services like gyn
exams, pap smears etc.

But you are there.
You provide them these
services. How good you are!

Sincerely,
Patricia

10/27/15



Dear Planned Parenthood,

This program has helped millions of people get family planning.
Please keep it.

Maria
California



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I AM TOTALLY IN AGREEMENT WITH HAVING PLANNED PARENTHOOD IN OUR SOCIETY. WE ARE BEING PHONY IN DENYING THE NEED FOR ITS EXISTENCE. AT LEAST 90 PERCENT OF CATHOLICS USE CONTRACEPTION. THE TWO ILLEGAL ABORTIONS I KNOW OF HAPPENED TO CATHOLICS. ONE WAS WITH A COAT HANGER. SHE LOST HER LIFE AND LEFT THREE SMALL CHILDREN. THE SECOND ONE WAS DONE IN A HOTEL ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF CHICAGO. SHE LIVED, BUT BARELY, AND SHE, TOO, HAD THREE SMALL CHILDREN. I ALSO REMEMBER THE ANGUISH MY MOTHER FELT ABOUT GETTING PREGNANT, SINCE SHE WAS HAVING A HARD TIME FEEDING AND CLOTHING THE CHILDREN SHE HAD.

I VOLUNTEERED NEXT TO A PP OFFICE AND I USED TO SEE GIRLS COMING FROM THE CATHOLIC COLLEGE NEARBY TO GET PILLS SINCE THE COLLEGE WAS NOT GOING TO GIVE THEM OUT. MY DAUGHTER BROUGHT HER FRIEND TO PP BECAUSE SHE WAS HAVING UNPROTECTED SEX—I TOLD HER WHERE TO GO. THAT GIRL GOT EDUCATION AND CONTRACEPTION.

HELEN
WISCONSIN

Thank you, Planned Parenthood.

When I was 19, my mother converted to fundamental Christianity, quit her job, and dropped our health insurance. She had raised me on her own, and as a full-time college student, I still depended on her for nearly everything. Suddenly, I couldn't afford to see a doctor or pay for any of my prescriptions.

I needed to be on the pill. I have (I later learned) polycystic ovary syndrome and my periods were often painful. Not to mention, I knew that I could not afford to be pregnant, nor did I want to be. My mother refused to help me pay for the pill. Planned Parenthood was there for me with birth control and annual care I could afford. I will never forget the relief I felt when I talked to the doctor at the clinic. I no longer felt alone.

You are there for women—especially those who live in rural areas and those with little income—when often we are left behind. Even by our family. I am forever grateful.

Jen



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I fully support your work, and I thank you for continuing the same.

Gerard
Louisiana



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you so much for the good work you do. Your clinic was the perfect place for my young daughters to get the information they needed, and I have suggested it to many parents and other young people.

Ramona
Colorado



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

I'M A CATHOLIC AND I SUPPORT YOU.
THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO TO
PROVIDE WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE.

JEN
WEST VIRGINIA

11/26/15

Dear Friends at Planned
Parenthood,

Thank you for your steadfast
support to women who need
your services.

A young woman very dear to me
sought your help when she
knew she did not want to get
pregnant as a result of a
relationship she was in. I have
been sending you a donation every
year since that time.

I am Catholic but I sincerely
disagree with "the Church's" position
on the issues of contraception and
abortion. And I am not alone!

Today is Thanksgiving. Your
faithful support for women's
health is one of the gifts I am
grateful for.

Sincerely, Ellen



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic and a woman, I am appalled at our elected officials assuming they are entitled to decide what women need or don't need from Planned Parenthood. Women's healthcare should matter in this country! I personally used PP when I was a teenager, in addition to several of my friends who would've ended up pregnant before graduation without PP's help getting on the pill. I took my daughter and her friends to PP when the time was right so that they could also be prepared when the time came. I'm so sick of men deciding what is good for a woman's body/life.

Janet
Nebraska



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I support your organization 100 percent. The services you offer women are aligned with the ideals of compassion, support for humanity and outreach of the most basic but necessary kind. Thank you for all your work, education, outreach and advocacy.

Megan
Pennsylvania



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE. THE WOMEN OF AMERICA HAVE YOUR BACK BECAUSE WE CAN'T GET ALONG WITHOUT YOU.

VIVIAN
FLORIDA

To My Friends at Planned Parenthood,

First, thank you for the care & compassion you have shown to so many, including myself, within the walls of your clinic. Please know that despite these dishonest smear campaigns the countless people who loves you have touched know that our communities are truly blessed to have such safe and supportive caregivers. We know that without you so many would not be able ^{to} ~~burden~~ ^{access} health care services. We also know we will never be able to thank you enough

for all you do; but, we are indeed so grateful. Growing up being intellel with a deep passion for social justice, I believe it is so moving the lengths you go through to ensure no woman is turned away because of her circumstances. My faith as a Catholic has led me to understand that we must respect a woman's conscience based decisions. Thank you for supporting them and making them know they are cared for as they make their decision.

As a Catholic, as a brother, as a Latino
THANK YOU!
-Victor



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Though I personally may believe in life beginning at conception, the fundamental principle of our Constitution is that my dogma does not dictate policy. And any legislator who can't understand this constitutional concept does not deserve their job.

Robert
Missouri



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I am a Catholic who has worked in women's healthcare for 32 years. Our faith tells us to RESPECT a woman's conscience-based decision.

I have been a member of Planned Parenthood since 1986. I know Planned Parenthood serves the good of the community.

God bless you!

TPH
Georgia



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO; YOUR WORK IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED!

UTA
WASHINGTON

Dear Planned Parenthood,

As someone who grew up near a clinic that provided abortion services I saw from an early age how much opposition you face on a daily basis. It only encouraged me to be as vocal as possible about the incredible work you do.

Thank you for staying strong against adversity & continuing to provide invaluable services to the women in my community.

Thank you for always supporting my right to control my own body and make my own choices in life. Continue to fight the good fight & I'll continue to fight for you!

I support you. I stand with you.

Sincerely,
Taylor



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for all the good you do. It is sad that the prolife movement does not include valuing the life of a living human female. It is appalling that a smear campaign has been used to protest the good that can come from women having the healthcare that they need. I wish you continued success in treating women, finding cures for diseases and helping to improve healthcare for families.

Patricia
New York



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you.

Clare
California



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

BY PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND CONTRACEPTIVES FOR YOUNG ADULTS, PLANNED PARENTHOOD LEADS TO FAR FEWER UNPLANNED PREGNANCIES AND, AS A RESULT, FEWER ABORTIONS. ANTICHOICE GROUPS NEED TO THINK THIS THROUGH BEFORE SMEARING YOUR ORGANIZATION.

THANK YOU FOR THE MANY CRITICAL SCREENING SERVICES AND OTHER MEDICAL CARE YOU PROVIDE FOR ALL OF YOUR PATIENTS. YOU ARE AN IMPORTANT FORCE, AND I AM PROUD TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING YOU.

LINDA
IDAHO

“AS A WOMAN OF FAITH, I BELIEVE IN SOCIAL
JUSTICE, AND THEREFORE, I BELIEVE IN
PLANNED PARENTHOOD.”



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I fully support Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood is ethical and is so needed by the poor, who have little or no other choice for medical care.

Giovanna
New Jersey



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thanks for taking care of women, some of whom no one else will take care of.

Suzanne
Iowa



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I SUPPORT THE WORK YOU DO AND THE SERVICES YOU PROVIDE. I BELIEVE THAT CONGRESS SHOULD CONTINUE TO REIMBURSE PLANNED PARENTHOOD FOR THE SERVICES ALLOWABLE.

I DO NOT ENDORSE ABORTION, BUT I CERTAINLY BELIEVE IT IS A WOMAN'S CHOICE. I BELIEVE THAT IT NEEDS TO BE AVAILABLE IN A SAFE AND NONTHREATENING ENVIRONMENT.

THANK YOU FOR THE WORK YOU DO, AND PLEASE CONTINUE TO HAVE THE INTEGRITY AND COMPASSION TO WORK WITH WOMEN FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

SINCERELY,

MARY
MARYLAND

10-24-15

Dear Friends

at Planned Parenthood,

Pro-choice

I am a Catholic

and a

Feminist

and a

liberal Democrat,

and I

truly believe in

& support

& value

All the care

you give to women

for their health &

well-being!

Sincerely,

Kristina



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I stand with you!

Sharon
New Jersey



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I'll never be able to thank you enough for all you've done for me. When I was in college, both of my parents lost their jobs and we were without health insurance. My local Planned Parenthood (in Eau Claire, Wisconsin—huge shout-out to those amazing women!) was the sole provider of my healthcare needs for several years. They were always kind, helpful, patient and nonjudgmental. I received care and kindness from Planned Parenthood when I needed it the most, and for that I am forever grateful.

Your services are not only necessary; they are moral, ethical and deeply good. I am proud to support Planned Parenthood. Thank you for everything.

In solidarity,

Taylor
Washington, DC

10-18-15

I am ninety years old (90).
I have had contact with Planned
Parenthood many times.

1st as a student & married in a
graduate program in Cleveland,
as a parish member bringing young
parents from Vietnam.

as a grandparent helping a teen
as grand daughter with stories
& activities & education re sexuality.

as a member League of Women Voters
educating women re voter rights -

This is really about oppression poor
& young women & older women too -

Ann



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

I AM AN ADVOCATE FOR YOU IN AUSTIN. YOUR HEALTH CLINICS ARE SO IMPORTANT TO ALL COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE. YOUR STAFF NEVER FAILS TO GO THE EXTRA STEP IN MAKING SURE HEALTH ISSUES ARE ADDRESSED, EVEN THOUGH YOU DO NOT OFFER FULL MEDICAL SERVICES. YOU MAKE SURE THE CORRECT PROVIDER IS CONTACTED AND PERFORM QUALITY CARE FOR THE PATIENT. THIS LEVEL OF ACCESS AND COMPASSION IMPROVES EACH WOMAN'S LIFE AND THOSE OF THEIR FAMILIES. YOU OFFER IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR EVERYONE CONCERNING FAMILY PLANNING. THANK YOU FOR STANDING UP AND SPEAKING OUT FOR WOMEN'S INTERESTS.

LISA
TEXAS



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I believe I must follow my conscience. This includes health matters. How ironic that only women's health seems to be a concern to some, even though the church treats women as less than equal.

The church does not stand for me or my beliefs when it comes to Planned Parenthood. I believe you are performing a valuable service and deserve to be funded.

Jeanne
California

10-19-15

To Whom it May Concern:

Please fund Planned Parenthood (PP).

Indigent girls & women have so few resources by definition, depriving them of quality health care & reproductive issues & decisions seems criminal.

It is criminal to wrongly accuse PP. PP was placed into political theater because such issues draw peoples' attention, energy & funds.

Continuing to fund & support Planned Parenthood is a respectful, rightful act that will prevent further decay of the poor & middle class society.

Regards
L.W



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Planned Parenthood is there for women and men that many others turn their backs on— including those who claim to be “prolife.” It scares me to think of the consequences that would result from having to shut down PP health centers across the country.

Keep fighting the good fight!

Angela
New Jersey



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

THE WORK YOU DO IS VITAL TO THE WELL-BEING
AND HEALTH OF ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. FAMILY
PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL FOR QUALITY FAMILY LIFE.
PEOPLE WHO KNOW THIS WILL SUPPORT YOU ALWAYS!
WE ARE AFTER OUR REPRESENTATIVES (WHO WORK FOR
US—EVEN THOUGH THEY SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN) TO
ADMIT THE IMPORTANCE OF YOUR WORK.

SONIA
PENNSYLVANIA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic woman, I stand for freedom of choice for all women, both in relation to reproductive rights and the separation of church and state. I am appalled at the direction my church has taken in recent years: it has opposed the freedom to worship or not worship; tried to limit the ability to control one's own body both in matters of sex and reproduction and end of life decisions; and then there is the church's stand in regard to "religious freedom" as seen in its involvement with the Hobby Lobby case.

My concern is that Catholics are often described in the press as one unanimous voting bloc, with the same views of these matters. This does not hold true for either the clergy or the laity.

Respectfully,

Kathy
California



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for all you do. I have PPO insurance and could not get access to an IUD without buying one first. No doctor would buy it, then charge my insurance. This was 2015 and I was fighting for birth control. I went to Planned Parenthood and they did just that. They already had IUDs and I paid using my insurance to get one. If Planned Parenthood didn't exist, I don't know what I would have done. Thank you for being there.

Jacquie
California



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO. NEVER LET THEM SHUT
YOU DOWN, ESPECIALLY NOT FOR THE DISGUSTINGLY
FALSE REASONS THEY HAVE DEvised TO DO SO.
FIGHT BACK HARD AND KNOW THAT SO MANY STAND
WITH YOU.

CHRISTINE
RHODE ISLAND



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for your courageous efforts on behalf of women's
health needs!

Thomas
Texas



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I applaud the actions of your organization and medical professionals as leaders in providing services to women, regardless of their age and level of income. As a teacher of teenage girls, I know many who were able to continue their education due to the screenings and other services provided by PP. Your organization is a vital link for so many underserved women.

As a follower of Christ, I feed the poor, clothe the naked and help others when I can, not asking questions about their faith but acting upon seeing a need. Thus, as a woman of faith in the 21st century, I believe in social justice, and therefore, I believe in Planned Parenthood.

Janet
Washington



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

YOU'RE DOING A WONDERFUL AND MUCH-NEEDED JOB
HELPING COUNTLESS WOMEN AROUND THE COUNTRY.
STAY STRONG.

GAIL
CALIFORNIA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I appreciate all the work you do and all the lives you've changed with your work.

Norma
Arizona

Dear Planned Parenthood,

One of your Wisconsin clinics helped me get my birth control prescription refilled when my college health center in DC refused to ship me additional packs of pills over the summer. The staff was friendly & helpful during & made what could have been a tough time nearly stress free. ~~I can't thank~~

I can't thank you enough for your support - know that you have mine as you continue to fight these baseless anti-choice attacks.

Carolyn



Dear Congress re: Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I believe women's health is vitally important to the fabric of society, family and faith.

It's personal—no one will be untouched by the loss of Planned Parenthood's expertise and experience. These are good, compassionate people who have touched untold numbers of lives. If you care at all for the women and children in your life, you will support Planned Parenthood. Find a way.

Suzy
Illinois



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

YOUR CLINICS HELPED ME WHEN I WAS A YOUNG
TEEN AND NOW YOU HELP MILLIONS.

THANK YOU,

LYNN
FLORIDA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I also stand with Planned Parenthood.

Namik
California

“THE WORK YOUR DOCTORS AND CLINICIANS DO
EVERY DAY IS SO VITAL. IT EXEMPLIFIES THE
HEART OF OUR OWN CATHOLIC VALUES.”



Dear Planned Parenthood,

For what you stand for—being generous, turning no one in need away—for your outstanding educational services, for your commitment to the poor and disenfranchised ... I salute you!

For your courage and willingness to fight on in the face of violence, lies and personal attacks ... you are a positive role model for everyone who believes in truth and justice.

Thank you for all the important work you do!

Donna
New York



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS CATHOLICS, WE MUST WALK WITH THE POOR. I ALSO APPRECIATE WHAT YOU ARE DOING TO PROVIDE LIFESAVING MEDICAL TESTING FOR PEOPLE WHO OTHERWISE COULD NOT AFFORD THESE TESTS.

KATHY
MASSACHUSETTS



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for the important, necessary and holy work that you do. As a Catholic, it is my moral duty to support reproductive justice. My call to solidarity with the oppressed means supporting all of the necessary services you provide, from abortion care to breast cancer screenings.

I stand unequivocally with Planned Parenthood and reproductive justice. I and the majority of Catholics, who are prochoice, will defend bodily autonomy and reproductive justice. It is because of, not in spite of, my Catholicism that I support your work. May God bless you as you continue your work that affirms conscience, dignity and life.

In solidarity,

John
Iowa



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Many thanks for ensuring the health and safety of women, men and children.

Michael
New Jersey

Oct. 21, 2015

To: Planned Parenthood,
Back in the 1950s
I had occasion to
use your services -
for contraception
information. I have
always appreciated
the work you do.

In 2016 I intend
to resume that
support.

(I am 87 years.)

Isa Mae



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

YEARS AGO, MY DAUGHTER HAD NO HEALTH INSURANCE BUT NEEDED SOME BASIC HEALTHCARE. IN OUR AREA, ONLY PLANNED PARENTHOOD WOULD SEE HER. IT CHARGED HER A MINIMAL AMOUNT AND KEPT HER HEALTHY.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN IN FAVOR OF A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE, BUT WHEN A CLOSE FRIEND WHO HAS SUFFERED FROM SEVERE DEPRESSION WAS RAPED, HER RIGHT TO CHOOSE WHAT TO DO ABOUT HER HEALTH AND HER BODY REALLY HIT HOME.

THANKS YOU FOR ALL YOU DO.

EILEEN
CALIFORNIA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

You have been there for me and my friends in times of need. You have educated us, held our hands, provided accurate medical information, protected us and always maintained our privacy and human dignity.

You are the epitome of medical care.

As a Catholic, I stand behind you and support you.

Thank you.

Lisa
Illinois



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Catholicism teaches love, compassion and social justice as the organizing principles for our lives. These are anchored in our bedrock value of conscience, which is a gift and responsibility for each person to exercise. Planned Parenthood, you courageously help people exercise that essential function of conscience in a world where it is often difficult for both clinicians and patients, and you do it with love and compassion. Thank you.

We live in a world of bullies. The work your doctors and clinicians do every day is so vital. It exemplifies the heart of our own Catholic values. That you must do your work under such harrowing circumstances is heartbreaking. You save lives. Whether it's the education you do that puts young people on a path to understanding their bodies and sexuality and enjoying a lifetime of sexual health, or whether it is the abortion care you provide for the woman who simply does not want a child, your work is critical, sacred, compassionate and kind.

Everyone knows someone who has been to Planned Parenthood, even if they do not realize it. Please know that this Catholic and millions of others like me stand with you. We appreciate your acts of social justice in our communities. We appreciate the healthcare you provide, which is often for those who might not otherwise get any. There aren't enough thank-yous to cover the importance of what you do. May your good work continue on.

Glenn
Maryland



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

I'M SPEAKING OUT OFTEN TO URGE CONGRESS TO CONTINUE FUNDING YOUR ORGANIZATION. I KNOW YOU DO WONDERFUL, MUCH-NEEDED WORK WITH WOMEN. THANK YOU.

PATRICIA
ARIZONA

Dear Planned Parenthood,

Don't be deceived by a few Catholic elites — Catholic women know how important your work is. Our faith calls us to serve the needy, and you compassionately provide care to women from all walks of life, often to those who have nowhere else to turn. Our faith calls us to respect conscience-based decisions, and you provide care without judgement.

I'm sorry for the tactics used by anti-choice groups, but know that Catholic women appreciate you and your work!

Thank you for standing with women. We will continue to stand with you.

In good conscience,

✶ Cori



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thanks for your exceptional and compassionate healthcare, top-notch education and effective advocacy. Our communities are better because of Planned Parenthood affiliates in our states!

Cindy
New Mexico



Dear Planned Parenthood,

We are with you. Keep up the good work.

Peace!

Gene and Dori
South Dakota



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I FEEL COMPELLED TO SUPPORT PLANNED PARENTHOOD, AS IT WAS JESUS' DIRECTIVE TO CARE FOR THE POOR. THAT JOB IS BEING DONE WELL BY PLANNED PARENTHOOD, AND THE SUPPORT OF OUR GOVERNMENT MEANS THAT AT LEAST SOME OF MY TAX DOLLARS GO WHERE MY FAITH SUGGESTS THE GREATEST NEED IS.

SINCERELY,

CINDY
ALABAMA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for providing reasonable and affordable healthcare to poor or low-income women. I once was one of those women. I could not afford birth control, and it was for a medical condition I have, PCOS. They gave me birth control free of charge. Things got better for me financially and then I could afford medical care.

Thanks to Planned Parenthood, my husband and I have a beautiful boy. Without remaining on birth control until I was ready to have children, my PCOS symptoms would have returned, and I would not have been able to maintain a pregnancy. Thank you for looking out for the welfare of both mothers and children. I would not be holding my son in my arms today if it were not for Planned Parenthood.

As a Catholic, I believe that we should always take care of those less fortunate than ourselves in time of need. The issue here is not whether or not Planned Parenthood performs abortion or donates fetal tissue. The real issue is: Planned Parenthood needs to be funded. It needs to be there to provide people with necessary medical care that is sometimes lifesaving, and which some women cannot otherwise afford. I would like to leave you with a quote that sums this up perfectly.

Sister Joan Chittister says, "I do not believe that just because you are opposed to abortion, that that makes you pro-life. In fact, in many cases, your morality is deeply lacking if all you want is a child born but not fed, not a child educated, not a child housed. And why would I think that you don't? Because you don't want any tax money to go there. That's not pro-life. That's pro-birth. We need a much broader conversation on what pro-life is." Amen, sister.... Amen!

Christina
Ohio



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I truly believe that once a woman is seeking an abortion, our society is often too late (never mind the dollars short) in supporting her. I don't like that abortions exist, but I sympathize with the reasons women seek them out. When a woman needs an abortion, I want her to be able to have it in a safe, supportive environment. I also believe birth control and healthcare are just a few of the first- and second-tier supports that women need to have. Thank you for providing a safe and supportive place for all women. I hope that one day all women will feel they have the support they need throughout their lives.

As a Catholic, my faith tells me to respect and love all women. Society has failed women over and over: few care about what a woman is facing until she is pregnant. Then people get all excited about the outcome. I do not like that abortions exist, but I know that they have existed for millennia because of the way women have been treated. It is important that women always have access to proficient medical care. It is also important that women conceive when they are in a space to welcome that baby. This is different for each person.

I respect all groups that seek to support women when they become pregnant, but I have the most respect for Planned Parenthood, which sees all women as sisters, as the face of Jesus. This happens long before pregnancy is in the picture, which some see as just a matter of "let's keep you healthy."

Anne
Minnesota



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK YOU DO FOR US ALL!

FATHER POOL—A JESUIT AND EPISCOPAL CATHOLIC!
TEXAS



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a young woman who grew up in a Catholic family and continues to grow in my faith today, it is crucial to me that a woman's decisions about her health are between her, her doctor and God—not politicians. By providing care to low-income and in-need women, and by empowering women to take control of their bodies and choices, Planned Parenthood is doing enormous good.

I am grateful. Furthermore, the donation of fetal tissue—when in line with the patient's wishes—is an innovative route to finding cures for diseases.

Thank you for the work you do. I am in full support!

Seana
Illinois



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I know many would not associate a Catholic woman with being prochoice, but that is exactly what I am. I refuse to believe that our religion cannot change. I refuse to let anyone tell me it is against my religion to support abortion care. I can believe in God and believe in a woman having the right to decide what she wants to do with her body.

Please continue to do what you do. You are doing this world and this country a favor by fighting for what is right!

We support your cause and I will stand by your organization.

Diana
California



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

I AM APPALLED BY THE TACTICS THE CENTER FOR MEDICAL “PROGRESS” HAS USED AGAINST PLANNED PARENTHOOD. HAVING BEEN FED FOR MANY YEARS BY THE CATHOLIC INTELLECTUAL TRADITION, I AM SADDENED BOTH BY THE ORGANIZATION’S TACTICS AND ITS LACK OF DIALOGUE WITH SCIENCE. THE CMP EXEMPLIFIES A LESS-THAN-CHRISTIAN ETHIC.

MARY
OREGON



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for providing affordable healthcare to women of color. Thank you for educating young women, and thank you for the work you do. I stand with you now and forever.

John
Florida

Dear Planned Parenthood,

I hear you have been under attack, that people have been saying mean and untruthful things about you, I know that you do great things for the health of women and girls in this country. I thank God that your doctors, nurses, and other staff are there for us everyday. Without you

I know that people in poverty would suffer even more. No matter what you hear always know that most people like my family stand with you and other clinics. It's important in these hard times, when people say mean & untruthful things that you do not lose faith.

From,

Siobhain



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I will always support you.

Thank you.

Corinne
Texas



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

MY CATHOLIC FAITH TELLS ME TO RESPECT A
WOMAN'S ABILITY TO USE HER CONSCIENCE TO
MAKE DECISIONS.

I HAVE A FRIEND WITH A PREEXISTING MEDICAL
CONDITION WHO WAS UNABLE TO GET HEALTH
INSURANCE. WITHOUT PLANNED PARENTHOOD SHE
WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO RECEIVE VITAL
GYN SERVICES.

THANK YOU!

JENNIFER
GEORGIA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Protestant who has supported PP's mission and even worked as a volunteer years ago, I have been critical of the Vatican's prolife position. It is with great pleasure that I now see Catholics coming out to support Planned Parenthood.

Kathleen
Pennsylvania

In Brooklyn in 1973 a very close friend had a contraceptive failure and became pregnant. She was single, only working part-time, so unprepared to have a baby. Her partner and I went with her when she terminated the pregnancy. We were all grateful that Planned Parenthood was there for her, as they are now

for thousands of other
young, poor, single
women.

Before this ~~my~~ support
for legal abortion had been
abstract, to a degree, intrinsic
to identifying as a feminist.

The practical, seeing, of
Planned Parenthood staff and
my friend's sadness,
profoundly changed my
perspective on abortion so
so basic a right. Without
Planned Parenthood, it's a
right many women will be
denied. - Sincerely, Alex



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic woman, I am proud to be a supporter of Planned Parenthood. Your work is invaluable—not only to women but to the entire family. I am so grateful that Planned Parenthood exists that I'm a monthly donor.

Thank you so much, and know that you have millions of Catholics standing behind you.

Maryellen
California



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

I STAND WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD AND YOUR
EFFORTS TO PROVIDE LOW-INCOME AND WORKING-
CLASS WOMEN A PLACE TO GO TO FOR HEALTHCARE!

HELENE
PENNSYLVANIA

To Whom It May Concern,

Planned Parenthood, as its name implies, helps people to become life-givers. Life, however, is not determined only by biological inevitability. Parenthood needs to be planned because it requires the giving of one's heart, energy and life for the other.

Poverty in the world falls most heavily on women and children. They hold up more than half the sky, so to speak. They are, preeminently, the marginalized that Pope Francis has called the world to see and to serve.

Serving the underserved is one of the most noble of all human endeavors. Often the most affluent can be the most heartless in seeking to deny the underprivileged the choices they need to create and nourish the life they engender.

There is a measure of cruelty in attacking Planned Parenthood in its totality.

Anthony



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I am writing in support of your organization and your efforts. I am a practicing Roman Catholic, and I am strongly prochoice. I applaud Planned Parenthood for your continuing efforts to offer women of all income levels the freedom of reproductive choice, as well as all the general healthcare services you provide to both women and men.

The consequences of defunding Planned Parenthood would be disastrous for women and men of limited means all over the US.

I think that the use of fetal tissue in medicine and research is a good thing, and I am grateful to women who consent to donate it, as well as to the science and healthcare professionals who use it to save lives and advance our knowledge. I support the right of women to make this choice, along with all other responsible choices for their own reproductive and general health. I will oppose politicians who would deny women such freedom in any way that I can—including the ballot box.

Yours,

Kurt
Pennsylvania



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for your commitment and service. Like so many, I'm deeply grateful to you. Keep up the good work—keep the faith!

Ruth
New York

"I WOULD NOT BE HOLDING MY SON IN MY ARMS
TODAY IF IT WERE NOT FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD."



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I SUPPORT PLANNED PARENTHOOD
AND ABORTION RIGHTS! IT'S THE LAW.

LINDA
MARYLAND



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I believe we have the right to choose when we will start or grow a family.

As a Catholic, I believe we have the right to choose what we want to do with our bodies.

As a Catholic, I think everyone has the right to healthcare.

As a Catholic, I believe we have the right to be educated about sexual health and the reproductive system.

Jess
California



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As Catholics, we are obligated to follow our conscience. There is no medical or theological justification to deny contraception. We cannot permit edited videos to justify the denial of women's right to protect their mental or physical health. Lies cannot be the source and reason for legislation.

Paul
South Carolina

10/19/15

Please, let us not go back to the days of illegal, "back-alley" abortions. As a doctor I saw the results of this.

Let's keep abortion legal & keep Planned Parenthood well funded, so that we have good contraceptive service available. This will reduce the number of abortions needed.

Robert



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

THANK YOU FOR THE MANY SERVICES YOU PROVIDE,
ESPECIALLY FOR THE UNDERPRIVILEGED, WHICH
INCLUDES A LARGE PORTION OF THE POPULATION.

FRED
MINNESOTA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Real Christians actually care about other people. The facts tell me
your organization cares about people and the future of our world.

Keep up your good works.

Nicholas
Pennsylvania



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for all that you do for poor women.

Rachel
Colorado



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I SUPPORT YOU 100 PERCENT. I
DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE GOVERNMENT'S OBSESSION
WITH OPPOSING WOMEN'S RIGHTS, HEALTH AND
CHOICES. I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE
EQUAL. IT DOESN'T SEEM THAT WAY. SAD. WHO
IS SUPPOSED TO HELP THE POOR, UNINSURED AND
OTHER WOMEN THAT NEED YOUR SERVICES IF YOU
ARE DEFUNDED? I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE EVEN
THOUGHT OF THAT. NO REALITY THERE. GOOD LUCK.

BARBARA
MISSOURI

To Everyone at Planned
Parenthood.

You are all very brave.
Thank you for all that you
do - I'm standing with you
and everyone at Planned
Parenthood. Jeanne



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Please continue to provide low-cost services to America's women!

Barb
Louisiana



Dear Planned Parenthood,

You do critical work.

As a Catholic, I am happy to add my voice in support of Planned Parenthood against this unjust and misleading smear campaign.

Bonnie
Massachusetts



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I BELIEVE A WOMAN SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO HAVE AN ABORTION IF SHE NEEDS ONE AND JUDGES IT TO BE IN HER BEST INTEREST. THE GOVERNMENT SHOULD NOT MAKE THAT DECISION FOR HER. I THANK YOU FOR ALWAYS BEING THERE FOR YOUNG WOMEN MAKING A CHALLENGING MORAL DECISION.

CLAUDETTE
NEW YORK

10.20.15

Planned Parenthood helped me when my primary care physician wouldn't or couldn't for STI testing after a sexual experience without a condom. Planned Parenthood educated, counseled & consoled me during a difficult time.

As a happily married, monogamous guy years later, I can reflect on how much Planned Parenthood helped not just me, but girlfriends and my wife, many of whom would have suffered unplanned & unwanted pregnancies without the family planning provided there. I thank them, and do so on behalf of my wife & daughters, too.

Catholicism taught me about compassion, and I embrace that tradition and Planned Parenthood.

-Rich
Oregon



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I'm in favor of women's rights. Stripping funding from Planned Parenthood is against women's rights.

Carmelita
California



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for being there for me, my family, my friends and millions of other Catholics like me. You help women and families to stay healthy, to plan whether and when to have children and to follow their consciences in determining the directions of their own lives. In the case of donating tissue to medical research, you're similarly honoring women's conscience-based decisions and helping to make important advances in finding cures for deadly and debilitating diseases. As a Catholic, I believe this is sacred work.

Many thanks from a Catholic for continuing to care, no matter what.

Meghan
Massachusetts



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

I SUPPORT YOUR WORK! I HAVE SIGNED AS MANY ACTIONS AS I COULD FIND TO OPPOSE THOSE THAT WANT TO SHUT YOU DOWN. TOO MANY NEED YOU TO BE IN THEIR CITY TO HELP THEM. I WILL CONTINUE TO WRITE AND SIGN ON IN SUPPORT OF YOUR WORK. WE REALLY NEED YOU! BLESS ALL OF YOU FOR ALL THE WORK YOU LOVELY PEOPLE DO.

SINCERELY,

DEBORAH
OKLAHOMA

I write as a practicing Catholic; active in my church community.

Planned Parenthood deserves the support of anyone who cares about the health of women, especially those who cannot afford regular health care. How else will these women receive breast cancer screening among other services? I am fortunate not to have required these services but we need to provide for those who do.

Patricia



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for what you do for the women and families of our nation! My Catholic education taught me to be responsible for what I do, to make ethical choices and to enable others to do the same.

Eileen
Illinois



Dear Planned Parenthood,

We need to fight this as a religious freedom issue.

Rose
Pennsylvania



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I STAND WITH AND SUPPORT
THE WORK OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD AS AN
INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO WOMEN'S HEALTH.
I WHOLEHEARTEDLY OPPOSE THE CURRENT ATTEMPT
TO USE A CRUDE "STING" OPERATION AS A WEDGE
FOR THE EFFORT TO BAN ALL ABORTIONS.

SUSAN
NEW YORK



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for the care you have given to me and those close to me.

Dan
Washington



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Keep up your work of kindness and mercy. Bless you all!
I am a retired Catholic hospital chaplain.

Nan
Nevada



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

I 'M REALLY GLAD YOU'RE THERE FOR ALL OF US.

ELIZABETH
VIRGINIA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I am hoping this nightmare for all women in the US will end.
We need you, Planned Parenthood. We always did. Thank you
for being there for us and our daughters. Thank you for
all your hard work.

Mariu
Texas



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for always being there to support our communities'
health needs. We applaud your courage in continuing to soldier on
in the face of your tormentors and applaud the high standards you
continue to maintain in spite of such adversity.

Barbara and John
Illinois



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

I AM A CRADLE CATHOLIC WHO IS ACTIVE IN MY PARISH, AND I FULLY SUPPORT THE WORK OF PLANNED PARENTHOOD. THANK YOU FOR YOUR YEARS OF COMPASSION AND MERCY—THE FOUNDATIONS OF MY FAITH!

KAREN
CALIFORNIA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I feel I cannot tell anyone what to do with their own health and well-being. We have free will. That gives each person the chance to choose their own path through life. I thank you for your work on providing contraception for those who come to you for family planning, but also for your efforts in healthcare for women, children and yes, even men. Thank you!

Patricia
Michigan



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Why are the most helpful programs the favorite targets of so many politicians?

I have admired your family planning programs for many years.

Thanks for your excellent and needed services.

Jake
Michigan



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I STAND WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD. KEEP UP YOUR GOOD WORK.

TERRY
HAWAII



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for all the good work you do.

Edward
North Carolina



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for all that you do for women's health, especially among the disadvantaged.

Joanne and Andy
California



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

I AM APPALLED BY THE ATTACKS ON PLANNED PARENTHOOD CLINICS AND ITS FEDERAL FUNDING. SOME WOMEN HAVE DESPERATE LIFE STRUGGLES, AND IT HAS BECOME THE NORM FOR THOSE WHO HAVE A NARROW POINT OF VIEW TO JUDGE THESE WOMEN FOR CHOOSING ABORTION. ABORTION IS NOT A WOMAN'S FIRST CHOICE, BUT IT SHOULD ALWAYS BE A CHOICE. AS A CATHOLIC AND AN ARGENTINIAN, THE PEOPLE IN MY FAMILY HAD TO MAKE THAT CHOICE, AND THERE IS NO REGRET.

AS A CATHOLIC, I BELIEVE THAT JESUS CHRIST WILL NOT CONDEMN THOSE WHO ARE SUFFERING, AND UNWANTED PREGNANCIES ARE JUST THAT—SUFFERING BY THOSE WHO ARE CONDEMNED BY SOCIETY. I AM OLDER NOW, AND I WORRY FOR THE YOUNG WOMAN WHO FINDS HERSELF IN A DESPERATE SITUATION AND HAS MADE THE CHOICE TO HAVE AN ABORTION. THE CHOICE IS HERS TO MAKE, AND HERS ALONE. THE "PEOPLE" OR "NATION" SHOULD NOT INTERFERE.

THANK YOU,

OLGA
FLORIDA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I am with you 100 percent. It's disgusting that all of these men and women are incessantly trying to hogtie women from having any say in our health matters. What you do is a godsend—thank you for standing up for women, especially the ones who've got nowhere else to go. Keep up the good fight, and keep the government out of my uterus!

Wendy
California



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, I am appalled by the tactics of the so-called Center for Medical Progress. Having lost my father to a form of dementia when he was only 63, I think it's critical that tissue is donated for biomedical research—when done according to a patient's wishes and within the legal guidelines—to help find cures for diseases like Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. I believe that Planned Parenthood is doing a public service.

Kara
Massachusetts



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING BIRTH CONTROL,
STD PREVENTION, EDUCATION AND OTHER
MEDICAL SERVICES TO THOSE WHO WOULD
OTHERWISE GO UNTREATED.

YOUR WORK IS APPRECIATED!

MAUREEN
NEW YORK



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Thank you for all your dedication, commitment and hard work for the important freedom that is women's rights. You are greatly appreciated.

Rob
California



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As an American citizen and a practicing Roman Catholic, I wish to add my voice in protest to the way in which congressmen and senators are attacking Planned Parenthood. There is no doubt that their threats against this successful agency are motivated by a political agenda based on a moral position against abortion. As of this time, the Supreme Court of the United States has declared that no state may prohibit abortion, but still a number of members of Congress are trying to place every impediment possible before a pregnant woman seeking to exercise her choice to terminate a pregnancy.

The motivation of this putative moral outrage is religious and is based on flawed science and emotional arguments to “protect the unborn.” As a member of an institution that has long made clear its position against abortion, I can attest that if I were a woman and pregnant, I doubt I could assent to terminate a pregnancy. However, the point is moot, because I am not a woman and the choice can never emerge. I also recognize that not being a pregnant woman, I have no right to impose my moral judgment on one who is. In short, my morality is my own business and someone else’s is theirs.

Furthermore, Planned Parenthood is a healthcare delivery agency that provides a number of vital procedures to individuals who lack the means to obtain private care. In so doing, they have helped teens with STD treatment and health education, as well as young mothers with children. What the benighted members of Congress are doing is pure grandstanding for their fundamentalist constituencies to gain votes and funding for their campaigns.

I am lucky that I live in a state and a congressional district where our representatives are opposed to the attack on Planned Parenthood. However, I also recognize that the entire attack against this fine institution is purely political and does not stem from any genuine concern for public health. As a former epidemiologist and public health worker, I’m angry at the callous disregard shown by our members of Congress, and I ask that they stop this ridiculous campaign against an organization with a fine record of service.

Very truly yours,

Frank
California



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A NON-CATHOLIC, MY FAITH BELIEVES IN SHOWING SOLIDARITY WITH AND COMPASSION FOR THE POOR. IT IS SHAMEFUL AND IMMORAL THAT THESE ANTICHOICE EXTREMISTS RESORT TO DECEIT TO LIMIT ACCESS TO THE CRITICAL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES THAT PLANNED PARENTHOOD PROVIDES.

PEGGY
TEXAS



Dear Planned Parenthood,

If my Catholic mother wasn't so afraid that she hid her knowledge of birth control from me—due to shaming by the church—I would never have ended up in a black market abortion clinic. Deep support for the care you provide women.

Anonymous
Illinois



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF PEOPLE DESPITE IGNORANT RANTS AND RAVES FROM OTHERS WHO WON'T LISTEN TO THE TRUTH!

HUGS,

BENNIE
FLORIDA



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

I WAS RAISED AS A CATHOLIC, AND MY FAITH FORMED MY VALUES, INCLUDING THE VALUE OF LIFE. YOUR WORK PROVIDING NECESSARY REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE TO THIS NATION'S WOMEN EXEMPLIFIES THE VALUE OF LIFE ON A GRAND SCALE.

FOR EACH WOMAN HELPED WITH AN EXAM OR WITH CONTRACEPTIVES—INCLUDING THOSE WHO NEED THOSE MEDICATIONS FOR REASONS OTHER THAN BIRTH CONTROL—A FAMILY HAS BEEN MADE HEALTHIER.

FOR EACH BREAST CANCER SCREENING THAT HELPS A WOMAN CATCH CANCER EARLY, A WOMAN LIVES TO HOLD HER GRANDCHILDREN.

FOR EACH PERSON NEEDING TO KNOW IF THEY HAVE BEEN INFECTED WITH A SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE, YOU HELP THEM GO FORWARD TO A FULL LIFE.

I HAVE BEEN A PATIENT AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD, AND I KNOW THE PROFESSIONAL CARE AND CONCERN YOU PROVIDED ME. I THANK YOU AND OFFER MY SUPPORT.

MARTIE
OKLAHOMA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

I'm a Catholic man and I support Planned Parenthood's women's health programs.

James
New Mexico



Dear Planned Parenthood,

You value women, and I see a good Catholic value right there. I will always support you because you will always support women.

Alison
Texas



Dear Planned Parenthood,

Many people think Catholics are antichoice. Catholics have a bad, though sometimes deserved, reputation, because many of us have chosen to ignore women as people by following what the church says.

I stand with Planned Parenthood as a Catholic bisexual woman who takes birth control thanks to your organization. Because of Planned Parenthood, I am able to live my life the way I choose, and I want other women (and non-women, since PP doesn't just help women) to have that choice.

I am prochoice because I feel that everyone should be able to choose how their life should be lived.

Thank you, Planned Parenthood, for standing with women so they can overcome barriers to healthcare services. And thank you for continuing to provide these services in the face of adversity.

Keep doing what you're doing.

Thank you,

Arely
Michigan



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic and as a nurse-midwife, I am called to care for people where they are, with what they need. My faith and my professional ethics require me to respect and honor my patients' conscience-based decisions, just like the work that Planned Parenthood does, which is to work for social justice. I stand with Planned Parenthood as a woman, as a midwife, as a mother and as a Catholic.

Meghan
Washington



Dear Planned Parenthood,

As a Catholic, as a woman, as a human being, I support you 100 percent. God bless you in all your work.

Thank you.

Mary
Pennsylvania



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF SO MANY WOMEN AND ALLOWING THEM TO LIVE. WE WOMEN HAVE A RIGHT TO HEALTHCARE AND YOU HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE THAT CARE ACCESSIBLE. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR ALL YOU DO AND ALL OF THE SERVICES YOU PROVIDE.

ANDREA
TEXAS



DEAR PLANNED PARENTHOOD,

AS A CATHOLIC, I SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED HEALTHCARE AT AFFORDABLE PRICES FOR ALL MEMBERS OF OUR SOCIETY. PLANNED PARENTHOOD IS A KEY SOURCE OF HEALTH EDUCATION AND ACCESS TO LIFESAVING SCREENINGS.

AS SOMEONE WHO UTILIZED YOUR SERVICES WHILE IN COLLEGE—ANNUAL PHYSICALS, LOW-COST CONTRACEPTION AND TESTING—I KNOW FIRSTHAND HOW VITAL PLANNED PARENTHOOD SERVICES ARE.

THEREFORE, I AM PROUD TO SUPPORT PLANNED PARENTHOOD AND ITS MISSION TO MAKE AFFORDABLE CARE AVAILABLE TO ALL.

MICHELLE
FLORIDA



Dear Planned Parenthood,

You guys rock!

#proudatholicforchoice

Alex
Florida



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FOR
CHOICE

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Dear Planned Parenthood: Love Letters From Catholics

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