



Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona

PLANNED PARENTHOOD ADVOCATES OF ARIZONA

March 23, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Tayler Tucker, media@ppaz.org, 602.263.4225

Arizona Planned Parenthood Patients and Supporters Protest Against GOP Vote to Block Access to Care at Planned Parenthood

Events happening across the country in response vote on the worst piece of legislation for women in a generation

Phoenix, AZ - Tomorrow and Friday, Planned Parenthood supporters will rally together throughout the state to speak out against the Affordable Care Act (ACA) repeal. A planned vote to repeal the ACA has been announced for March 23rd, which also marks its seventh anniversary. Advocates, community leaders, and others are joining forces to help stop the passage of this disastrous legislation. Supporters are turning out to rallies across the state and will march to Senators Jeff Flake and John McCain's Phoenix headquarters to voice their opposition to the dangerous GOP plan that includes blocking patients from care at Planned Parenthood.

[Rep. Martha McSally has announced that she will vote in favor of repealing the ACA](#) and continues to claim that patients cut off from care at Planned Parenthood can be easily served by other federally qualified health centers. This claim has been [resoundingly dismissed by experts](#). Planned Parenthood Arizona health centers [comprise of only 10% of the safety net health centers that offer family planning care in the state but those centers end up serving 37% of the patients](#).

As Republican leadership rushes the bill through the House, Sen. Jeff Flake and Sen. John McCain have avoided meeting with their constituents and could vote to block millions of low income women from coming to Planned Parenthood for breast exams, cancer screenings and birth control – thousands in Arizona alone. This bill would force women into a world where it's nearly impossible to prevent pregnancy, and to get medical care once pregnant.

The numbers for Arizona are stark. In our state, [54% of AHCCCS users are women and 19% of women in Arizona between ages 15-44 are covered by Medicaid as of 2013](#). Planned Parenthood sees [50% of the patients in Arizona that use Title X to get care like birth control, annual exams, and STI testing and treatment](#). The sad fact is that the threat of "defunding" Planned Parenthood has people in Arizona worried for their health. The minute the election was over, women were calling Planned Parenthood health centers to urgently make birth control appointments. In Arizona, Planned Parenthood health centers saw a 64% increase in requests for IUDs because patients were concerned about losing their health care. This is not what the American people want, and it's not what they voted for. In fact, [nearly half of Trump supporters](#)

[do not want to see Planned Parenthood defunded](#). With the proposed “American Health Care Act” bill an estimated 14 million Americans would lose access to care by 2018.

Arizonans will not stand for this. A new Kaiser Family Foundation [poll](#) shows that 75% of Americans, including majorities of both Republican women and Republican men, support federal Medicaid reimbursements for Planned Parenthood. A new FOX News [poll](#) also shows that the majority of Americans have a favorable view of Planned Parenthood. Not only do 57% of FOX News respondents view Planned Parenthood favorably, but that number has increased by 7% since FOX news polled registered voters back in 2015. One in five women in America has relied on Planned Parenthood for health care.

Statement from Jodi Liggett, Vice President of Public Affairs of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona:

“These latest polls solidify what Planned Parenthood and its patients know: threats to basic, preventive health care shouldn’t be part of the GOP leadership’s extreme agenda. Our supporters and advocates continue to fight back and we are not alone. Planned Parenthood is being joined by community partners and organizations that stand with us and the public at large who will be most impacted and lose coverage under this dangerous policy.”

“Our Arizona members in Congress, especially Senator Jeff Flake, have avoided their constituents when it comes to the single most consequential piece of policy affecting over half a million Arizonans. Haphazardly targeting Planned Parenthood and the vital cancer screenings, birth control, and STI testing services we provide will have devastating effects on the already strained health care system here in Arizona. They should expect that their constituents will not sit quietly as their health and wellbeing is at stake.”

Planned Parenthood supporters are rallying and taking action to make sure this does not happen.

Phoenix

Who: Protect Arizona’s Health Care Coalition

What: [Protect Arizona’s Health Care Rally](#)

When: Thursday, March 23rd from 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Where: [Arizona State Capitol - 1700 W Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007](#)

Who: Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona and Organizing for Action

What: [March Forward: Supporter Walk After GOP Repeal Vote](#)

When: Friday, March 24th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Where: [Starts at Planned Parenthood Arizona – Central Phoenix Offices \(4751 N. 15th St.\) and ends at Senator Jeff Flake’s Office and John McCain’s Offices on the corner of 22nd St. and Camelback Rd. Phoenix, AZ 85014](#)

Tucson

Who: Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona and Organizing for Action

What: [Tucson and Southern Arizona Celebrate the ACA 7th Anniversary](#)

When: Thursday, March 23rd from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Press conference held from 12:00 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Where: [YWCA Southern Arizona – 525 N. Bonita Ave. Tucson, AZ 85745](#)

Who: Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona

What: [Rally Against Repeal at Rep. McSally's](#)

When: Friday, March 24th from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Where: [Congresswoman McSally's Tucson Office - 4400 E. Broadway Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85711](#)

Flagstaff

Who: Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona

What: [Rally Against Repeal at Flagstaff City Hall](#)

When: Friday, March 24th from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Where: [Flagstaff City Hall – 211 W. Aspen Ave. Flagstaff, AZ 86001](#)

###

Planned Parenthood's advocacy and political arm in Arizona, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Arizona (PPAA), is the state's largest nonpartisan advocacy organization dedicated to protecting access to women's health care. PPAA is fighting for every woman's freedom and right to make reproductive choices, enjoy sexual health and wellbeing, and build healthy, strong families.

advocatesaz.org