



July 31, 2015

**Stand Up for Women's Access to Healthcare Services:  
Oppose all Efforts to Defund Planned Parenthood**

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the 95 undersigned civil and human rights and labor organizations, we urge you to oppose all efforts to defund Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA). We strongly condemn the distorted and fraudulent campaign against PPFA, a critical provider of vital health services to low-income women and women of color.

As a result of the false claims based on selectively edited videos by the so-called "Center for Medical Progress" infiltration of PPFA, we expect a number of Senate proposals will be offered on this Monday at 5:30pm to defund the organization. The group behind this fraud has undertaken 10 separate attack campaigns like this over the last eight years. Their real agenda is now clear—they want to defund PPFA and block access to basic health services, particularly for low-income women, women of color, women with disabilities, and young women. This is also an attack on all women and their basic civil and human right to health care.

PPFA provides affordable, and critically needed quality preventive health care and treatment to 2.7 million women, men, and young people across the country. Their clinics provide routine examinations, cancer screenings, contraceptive services, HIV and STI (sexually transmitted infections) testing. Approximately one in five women in America will rely on PPFA for health care in her lifetime.

For many low-income women and women of color, PPFA is their main health care provider. In 2013, PPFA's clinics served 370,000 African American patients, which was 14 percent of their overall patients; 575,000 Latinos, which was 22 percent of their overall patients; and 11,500 Native Americans. PPFA services are particularly critical for African American and Latina women who experience the highest mortality rates among women diagnosed with breast cancer and cervical cancer. Access to PPFA for early diagnosis is critical to these women's health and lives. In addition, over the last ten years, PPFA has significantly increased the numbers of male patients they serve, including from communities of color.

We strongly urge you to oppose all proposals to defund PPFA and stand with the undersigned organizations to protect the right to health care for low income women and women of color. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Nancy Zirkin,

**Officers**

**Chair**

Judith L. Lichtman  
National Partnership for  
Women & Families

**Vice Chairs**

Jacqueline Pata  
National Congress of American Indians  
Thomas A. Saenz  
Mexican American Legal  
Defense and Educational Fund  
Hilary Shelton  
NAACP

**Treasurer**

Lee A. Saunders  
American Federation of State,  
County & Municipal Employees

**Board of Directors**

Barbara Arnwine  
Lawyers' Committee for  
Civil Rights Under Law  
Helena Berger

American Association of  
People with Disabilities  
Cornell William Brooks

NAACP

Lily Eskelsen Garcia  
National Education Association

Marcia D. Greenberger  
National Women's Law Center

Chad Griffin  
Human Rights Campaign

Linda D. Hallman  
AAUW

Mary Kay Henry  
Service Employees International Union  
Sherrilyn Ifill

NAACP Legal Defense and  
Educational Fund, Inc.

Jo Ann Jenkins  
AARP

Michael B. Keegan  
People for the American Way  
Samer E. Khalaf, Esq.

American-Arab  
Anti-Discrimination Committee  
Elisabeth MacNamara

League of Women Voters of the  
United States

Marc Morial  
National Urban League

Mee Moua  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice |  
AAJC

Janet Murguía  
National Council of La Raza

Debra Ness  
National Partnership for  
Women & Families

Terry O'Neill  
National Organization for Women

Priscilla Ouchida  
Japanese American Citizens League

Rabbi Jonah Pesner  
Religious Action Center  
Of Reform Judaism

Anthony Romero  
American Civil Liberties Union

Shanna Smith  
National Fair Housing Alliance

Richard L. Trumka  
AFL-CIO

Randi Weingarten  
American Federation of Teachers

Dennis Williams  
International Union, UAW

Leadership Conference Executive Vice President, at [zirkin@civilrights.org](mailto:zirkin@civilrights.org), or June Zeitlin, Leadership Conference Director of Human Rights Policy at [zeitlin@civilrights.org](mailto:zeitlin@civilrights.org)

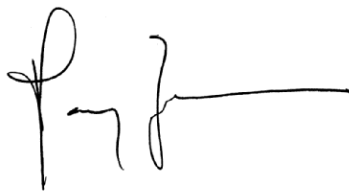
Sincerely,



Wade Henderson  
President & CEO



Judith Lichtman  
Chair, Leadership Conference Board of Directors  
Senior Advisor, National Partnership for Women &  
Families



Nancy Zirkin  
Executive Vice President

**List of Organizations:**

Alliance for Justice  
Amalgamated Transit Union  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Family Voices  
American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO  
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)  
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Federation of Teachers  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
Americans for Democratic Action (ADA)  
Americans United for Separation of Church and State  
Andrew Goodman Foundation  
Anti-Defamation League  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities

July 31, 2015

Page 3 of 4

BCTGM International Union  
BiNet USA  
Bisexual Resource Center  
CAEAR Coalition  
Campaign for America's Future  
Catholics for Choice  
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
Center for Women's Global Leadership, Rutgers University  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
Central Conference of American Rabbis  
Coalition of Labor Union Women  
Communications Workers of America  
Consortium of Higher Education LGBT Resource Professionals  
DC Vote  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Equality Federation  
Family Equality Council  
Federation of American Women's Clubs Overseas  
Feminist Majority  
Freedom to Marry  
Gender Action  
GLAAD  
Global Justice Institute  
GLSEN  
Human Rights Campaign  
Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc.  
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers  
Jacob Blaustein Institute for the Advancement of Human Rights  
Jewish Council for Public Affairs  
Jewish Women International  
Lambda Legal  
Latino Justice PRLDEF  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
Legal Momentum  
Marriage Equality USA  
Metropolitan Community Churches  
Movement Advancement Project  
NAACP  
NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc  
National Black Justice Coalition (NBJC)

National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
National Education Association  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Health Law Program  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health Salud  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
National Network to End Domestic Violence  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence  
National Urban League  
National Women's Law Center  
New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project  
NMAC  
People for the American Way  
PFLAG National  
PolicyLink  
Project Vote  
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism  
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union (RWDSU)  
Secular Coalition for America  
SEIU  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
Transgender Legal Defense & Education Fund  
USAction  
Voices for Progress  
Women Enabled International  
Women Graduates-USA  
Women of Reform Judaism  
Women's Research & Education Institute (WREI)  
Women's Intercultural Network (WIN)  
Women's Media Center  
The Workmen's Circle