

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016



Dear Ohio Legislature,

Planned Parenthood has provided critical healthcare services to many young Ohioans when the care we needed was either inaccessible or unaffordable. We are writing today to say that we stand with Planned Parenthood and a vote to defund Planned Parenthood ultimately is a vote to deprive your constituents of their needed health services.

For so many of us, Planned Parenthood has been a lifeline. Young people are less likely to have health insurance and more likely to have low-paying jobs, so the affordable healthcare available at Planned Parenthood means we do not have to go without the healthcare we need. When we don't have health insurance, Planned Parenthood is there to make sure we don't have to forgo a pap smear. For students without reproductive health care available on campus, Planned Parenthood is there. For young people too scared to ask their parents about preventing pregnancy, Planned Parenthood is there to discuss their options. And for so many who experience an unintended pregnancy, Planned Parenthood provides abortion care for those of us who need it. Quite simply, if Planned Parenthood is defunded, many young people will have no access to comprehensive healthcare, including family planning, pap smears, breast screenings, STI testing, and abortion care.

We should put the health needs of young people ahead of political agendas. Planned Parenthood provides affordable healthcare to hundreds of thousands of people who would have none without their clinics. Politicians should focus on passing laws that help young people start healthy families when they are ready to parent.

Young people support Planned Parenthood and we hope that you will consider our healthcare needs before your vote to defund. Young voters are a growing political force in this country and we will not soon forget an attack on a trusted healthcare provider that we rely on.

Sincerely,

Bethany Blinsky

On behalf of URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity