

October 21, 2015

Testimony in Opposition to SB 214, De-funding of Planned Parenthood Bill

Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee

The Rev. Dr. Susan K. Smith

Board Member, Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Good morning.

Thank you, Chairperson Coley, Ranking Minority Member Yuko, and members of the Senate Government Oversight and Reform Committee.

I stand before you today as a member of the board of the Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice to ask you not to defund Planned Parenthood.

I know many people do not want to hear about how difficult a choice it is for a woman to choose to have an abortion, but the fact of the matter is that it is. The plan or discussion to defund Planned Parenthood, however, really has little to do with abortion, because no federal funds are used for that purpose. They are used, however, to help give women with limited financial resources a chance to get good health care – including birth control – so that they will be able to prevent unwanted pregnancies. In the name of pro-life, that fact ought to be a plus.

Preventing unwanted pregnancies is a good thing, isn't it, in light of the opposition to abortion? And isn't it a moral "right" to provide funding for an organization which helps women to get pap smears, routine or perhaps life-saving gynecological exams, and other medications they need to address feminine gynecological problems? It seems that Planned Parenthood is absolutely pro-life, working to save and improve the lives of women while at the same time giving them the means to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Government funds are being used to save lives, not snuff them out.

It is my hope and prayer that you will consider the good that Planned Parenthood does, and vote NOT to defund an institution and organization which has as its core belief – life, quality life for women who might not otherwise have it.

I urge you to vote against SB 214. Thank you.