



Executive Director
Linda Seiter

President
Rick Kay

Vice President
Stephen J. Peterson

Secretary
Ron Clemons

Treasurer
Shannon King

Board of Directors

Jay Brock
Ina Broeman
Wendy Carpenter
Jeff Caywood
Don Clowe
Kathy Comisar
James P. Conway, Jr.
Danny Cox
Christopher Deabler
Judith Feinberg, MD
Scott Getz
John R. Gillespie
Sean J. Guilfoile
Kelli Halter
Jim Kelly
Jason Leo
Frank McWilliams, MD
Ryan L. Messer
Neal Morris
Joseph Previte, MD
Peter C. Quinnan
B. Keith Blevins-Roberts
Digi France Schueler
Kent Shaw
Michelle Watts, Ph.D.
David W. Weaver

Past Presidents

Melissa Lanier
Richard L. Buchanan
Ann Mootz
Mary Ellen Heintz
Kathleen Byrne
Linda Seiter
John R. Gillespie
Kathleen E. Cox
James C. Jackson
Rick Kay
Bernard L. McKay

September 25, 2015

Dear Committee Chairperson,

On behalf of Caracole, Inc. I am writing in support of Planned Parenthood Southwest Ohio Region (PPSWO). As the executive director of the primary provider of HIV care services in southwest Ohio, I am acutely aware the scope and depth and scope of services that they provide.

Caracole provides housing and medical case management services for individuals living with AIDS in the eight-county region of southwest Ohio. Each year, we serve over 1500 individuals. While we provide supportive services for those individuals know to be HIV+, PPSWO provides crucial HIV testing and education services and helps them access care. For the past three years, PPSWO has sublet two offices in our building for HIV testing. This partnership has been invaluable for our respective clients. PPSWO staff serve as a source for education and support for our clients and their partners. When someone tests positive, they are able to immediately connect them to care through our on-site staff. We frequently partner in responding to community issues such as rising hepatitis C rates and intravenous drug use.

It is imperative that PPSWO continue their HIV services through the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative, which enables Planned Parenthood to provide anonymous and confidential HIV testing programs for free throughout the state, including in Cuyahoga, Stark, and Hamilton Counties. Planned Parenthood provides more than 13,000 HIV tests in their health centers and nearly 5,000 HIV tests in the community annually. In our community, PPSWO is one of the only programs that provides outreach services in non-traditional settings. Given the scope of the heroin epidemic in our community, we cannot afford to lose this resource.

Again I ask that you do not vote to defund PPSWO. If your objective is to stop abortions, eliminating HIV testing and education services does nothing to meet that end.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Seiter
Executive Director

FUNDED BY
city of
CINCINNATI



Caracole provides safe, affordable housing and supportive services for individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS.

4138 Hamilton Avenue Cincinnati, Ohio 45223
(513) 761-1480 Fax (513) 761-3377 www.caracole.org

A Better Business Bureau Accredited Charity

