

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan

May 9, 2017

Dear Members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee,

Hi, I am Amanda West, Director of Government Relations for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan. We are opposed to SB163 and the creation of a fundraising mechanism for an ideological group that stands in the way of reducing abortion rates.

At Planned Parenthood we provide health services to 60,000 men, women and families and educational information to another 20,000 across Michigan each year. Our health centers specialize in family planning, STI testing and treatment, prenatal programs, breast cancer screenings, counseling, adoption referrals and other medical services. For the majority of our patients, we are the only health care provider they see in an entire year.

The services provided by Planned Parenthood are crucial to lowering teen pregnancy rates and reducing the number of abortions in Michigan. The state's abortion rates have been falling consistently, in keeping with nationwide trends, in part due to increased availability of contraception. In 2016, Planned Parenthood's contraceptive services averted nearly 9,000 unintended pregnancies, nearly 4,500 unintended deliveries, and over 3,000 abortions¹.

Planned Parenthood has consistently opposed the concept of allowing a special interest organization that does not provide health services to use the State's resources to impose their beliefs on others.

In fact, these license plates do not generate money for education or contraception access, two things proven to reduce abortion rates. As was reported just recently, Medicaid pays for 44% of births in Michigan². In 2010, 54% of all Michigan pregnancies were unintended³. Our priorities are askew when every county in Michigan has a veterinarian but nearly one-quarter don't have an OB-GYN⁴

I ask committee members to courageously prioritize women's health by focusing on solutions for these issues instead of exploiting State resources to subsidize an organization that doesn't even provide health care. Thank you.



Amanda West
Director of Government Relations
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan

¹ Guttmacher Institute. Data Center. "Health Benefits and Cost Savings of Publicly Funded Family Planning."
<https://data.guttmacher.org/calculator> (Data calculated by inputting 35,370 female contraceptive clients; 18,678 chlamydia tests provided to female patients and 3,819 chlamydia tests to male clients; and 3,617 Pap and HPV tests provided to female patients.)

² http://www.mlive.com/news/index.ssf/2017/03/medicaid_pays_for_44_of_michig.html#incart_river_home

³ https://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/factsheet/mi_5.pdf

⁴ <http://www.bridgemi.com/quality-life/sorry-baby-delivery-docs-short-supply-north#>