

**I STAND  
WITH  
PLANNED  
PARENTHOOD®**

Faith Leader Toolkit



How Clergy Leaders & Faith Communities Can Stand With Planned Parenthood

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## Greetings Friends,

This is a critical moment in the fight for reproductive health and justice. Senate leadership is determined to push a vote **as soon as possible** on a bill that will decimate the Affordable Care Act and block millions of vulnerable Americans from accessing birth control and cancer screenings at Planned Parenthood. The [Senate released the draft version of its health care repeal bill on June 22](#), which includes the same “defund” Planned Parenthood provision as the House bill; takes away health insurance from millions of people; makes it less affordable for those who will still have insurance; slashes Medicaid; and guts Essential Health Benefit protections including maternity coverage and prescription drugs. We expect to see amendments suggested and adopted in the days ahead in efforts to drive support for the bill in the Senate.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is working tirelessly to whip up the 51 votes needed for passage, ensuring the bill will be sent back to and adopted by the House quickly – regardless of its devastating potential. **Defeating this bill is a matter of utmost importance to protect health care access and reproductive rights for millions of families across America. We are calling on our faith leaders to help us drive home the message that placing health care access in political crosshairs is deeply immoral.** Losing this fight would have a disastrous impact in communities across the country– and hurt those most in need including communities of color, rural communities and low-income communities. We know there are a variety of attacks happening right now hurting communities, and a win this large by our opponents in attacking our healthcare will only ignite them to continue their hate and discrimination.

**More information on how to get your congregation involved through social media, communication, and action can be found in this toolkit.** Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or ideas about how your congregation can engage in and support this vital effort.



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# Actions

With only a matter of days until a Senate vote, Planned Parenthood supporters across the country will be leading actions to show their support to keep access to reproductive health care for all.

## What Can Your Congregation Do?

### WORSHIP

- Offer a prayer during your worship service to lift up the sacred work of Planned Parenthood and the importance of health care access for all:  
[www.religiousinstitute.org/worship-resources-healthcare](http://www.religiousinstitute.org/worship-resources-healthcare)
- Ask a patient of faith to share their story.
- Devote a section in your monthly or weekly newsletter to religious support for Planned Parenthood using the resources below.
- Show your support for the sacred work of Planned Parenthood by sharing a photo or video of your congregation with Planned Parenthood swag. We can send you our “Faithful Supporter, I Stand with Planned Parenthood” fans to help you show support and solidarity!  
[Click here.](#)



- Include local Planned Parenthood events in your weekly pulpit announcements.

Please share share your events here: [www.bit.ly/FaithInActionEvent](http://www.bit.ly/FaithInActionEvent) and send your “faithful supporter” photos to [faith@ppfa.org](mailto:faith@ppfa.org) so we can help uplift!

### TAKE ACTION

Your voices as leaders and members of faith communities hold so much power, and your representatives NEED to hear from you.

- **Get involved in local actions led by your local Planned Parenthood affiliate:** check out local activities happening by visiting [www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/local](http://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/local).
- **Write an Op-Ed or Letter to the Editor and preach about the importance of health care that includes reproductive care:** You will find talking points, a sample op-ed and letter to the editor at the end of this toolkit for support. You can customize these to your location, faith, and context.
- **Join our action text alerts:** Text “STAND” to 22422.
- Over the next two weeks we will be working with national coalition partners to mobilize supporters in the DC, MD, VA areas. **If you’re interested in staying informed about these events and ways you or your organization or congregation can plug into this work,** please email [faith@ppfa.org](mailto:faith@ppfa.org).

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In addition, as an individual – not in the name of your organization – you can participate with any 501(c)(4) organization in the following:

- **Call Your Senators:** [202-804-8210](tel:202-804-8210)

Consider calling them and having a one-on-one conversation about the importance of protecting health care access and preventive care services that Planned Parenthood provides. Let them know why your faith leads you to support Planned Parenthood and equal access to comprehensive affordable health care for everyone.

Sample Script:

*“My name is [INCLUDE YOUR HONORIFIC IF YOU’RE A FAITH LEADER] I’m your constituent from [CITY/TOWN], and I urge you to vote NO on the AHCA. As a person of faith, I pray you find the courage to say NO to taking away health care access by gutting coverage for millions of people, blocking millions from accessing Planned Parenthood as a health care provider, and stripping away key health insurance protections. I urge you to support the common good by protecting health care access for those who need it most – including women with low incomes, women of color, women in rural areas, and LGBTQ people. As I’m sure you know, Planned Parenthood provides services like family planning, cancer screenings, HIV and STI testing and treatment, and preventive health services that help detect problems before they become serious.*

*Feel free to also share a personal story about the importance of health care access, your faith, your community. Let them know the specific ways health care benefits like maternity care, programs like Medicaid, and protections to people with pre-existing conditions are essential components to health care that should never be negotiable.*

- **Show your support online:** Find social media guidance at the end of this toolkit to help you post on Twitter or Facebook.

- Tweet at Your Senators: [ppact.io/2qTLpJ6](https://ppact.io/2qTLpJ6)
- Pink Out your Twitter/Facebook page. You can change your profile image to include our pink overlay using our Twibbon: <https://twibbon.com/support/istandwithpp-2>
- IF YOU DON'T HAVE A TWITTER ACCOUNT: You can easily join and, just as easily, raise an important voice by following Planned Parenthood locally and nationally. Here are EASY ACTIONS ITEM you can take:
  - “Like” and “Share” the Planned Parenthood Facebook postings on your personal Facebook page.
  - “Favorite” and “Retweet” Planned Parenthood messages on Twitter. It takes very little time and adds impact. Ask the members of your faith community to do the same.

Sharing gets the Planned Parenthood message into your social media network and invites your “Friends” to stand with Planned Parenthood.

- **Become a Planned Parenthood Defender:** Defenders are a core group of supporters who have pledged their time to defend Planned Parenthood, the health services they provide, and the people who rely on them — in what just may be the fight of our lives. We need people of faith to speak out. Sign-up page: <http://ppact.io/2nJmYs>.

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READ HIGHLIGHTS OF FAITH LEADERS IN THE NEWS:

- [Groundswell: 5 Reasons People of Faith Stand with Planned Parenthood](#)
- [HuffPost: Yes, People Of Faith Can Absolutely Support Planned Parenthood](#)
- [Medium: Comprehensive, Affordable Health Care Including Access to Planned Parenthood Is A Moral Imperative](#)
- [Medium: Why This Pastor Supports the Affordable Care Act and Planned Parenthood](#)
- [HuffPost: Why These Religious Leaders Are Standing With Planned Parenthood](#)
- [Bustle: Why These Religious Leaders Are Speaking out for Planned Parenthood](#)

## Social Media Guidance

Beginning June 20th, use social media to help us amplify clergy and faith leaders' voices who #StandWithPP as we fight to ensure #TheseDoorsStayOpen. Join us in uplifting our new video featuring faith leaders.

**Hashtags to Follow:** #IStandWithPP and #StandWithPP

**Check Out Our Latest Video Featuring Faith Leaders:** [https://youtu.be/mMJY5G\\_UUJU](https://youtu.be/mMJY5G_UUJU)



**Social Media Accounts to Follow:** Just a few of the many great faith organizations are listed below.

- @PPACT
- @PPFA
- @ReligiousInst
- @Catholics4Choice
- @peoplefor
- @NCJW
- @RCRChoice

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## Sample Facebook Posts

- The fight to defund Planned Parenthood is, fundamentally, about whether politicians believe women deserve health care. If they believe women deserve care, they wouldn't hide behind religion to rob millions of women of the compassionate, knowledgeable and affordable health care that Planned Parenthood provides. That's why as a person of faith, I faithfully #StandWithPP <http://bit.ly/2sOA68S/>
- Our faith calls us to care for each other with compassion. Care – no matter what: That's what Planned Parenthood does. That's why I'm a faithful supporter and proud to #StandWithPP <http://bit.ly/2sOA68S/>
- Clergy and people of faith have stood with women to support their decisions about their reproductive future for over 75 years. Today, we still #StandWithPP. Join us: <http://bit.ly/2sOA68S/>

## Sample Tweets

- Join people of faith speaking out against this immoral legislation of the #AHCA <https://goo.gl/forms/dtzGjYvzrlBVaVpv1>
- #WWJD? Heal a woman who couldn't afford healthcare. Luke 8:43-48 #StandWithPP #ProtectOurCare
- Join clergy to #StandWithPP against the hateful attacks on our health care: <http://bit.ly/2sOA68S/>
- Our faith calls us to practice justice. It is unjust & immoral to block access to Planned Parenthood: <http://bit.ly/2sOA68S/> #IStandWithPP
- "It is our role as people of God to care for our fellow men and women." - Rev. Darcy Roake (@darcyrpd) <http://bit.ly/2sOA68S/> #IStandWithPP
- As <<insert faith tradition here>>, we know protecting @PPFA is #SacredWork. Call your Senator & demand they #StandWithPP — <http://bit.ly/2sOA68S/>
- Care – no matter what – is what God requires of us. That's why we must #ProtectOurCare and #StandWithPP: <http://bit.ly/2sOA68S/>
- Compassion and care are core tenets of my faith. They're also why #IStandWithPP: <http://bit.ly/2sOA68S/>



## **Rev. Timothy McDonald III**

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**"As a person of faith,  
I believe that everyone  
should have access to  
healthcare...**When people  
of faith speak up for  
reproductive justice,  
compassion becomes  
the order of the day.**"**

 **Planned Parenthood®**



**Rev. Darcy Roake**

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**“It is our role as people of God to care for our fellow men and women.”**

 **Planned Parenthood®**



## Rabbi Lori Kauffman

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“People need more access to health care, more access to contraceptives, more access to education, **all of the services Planned Parenthood provides.**”

 **Planned Parenthood**<sup>®</sup>

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## Talking Points

Access to health care is a moral issue and the Senate is just days away from taking away health care for millions and cutting off access to critical life saving care at Planned Parenthood health centers.

Now is the key moment for people of faith to speak out.

“Defunding” Planned Parenthood would have a devastating impact on many people who already face barriers to health care — including people with low incomes, people of color, LGBTQ people, immigrant communities, and those who live in rural areas.

- Planned Parenthood receives Medicaid reimbursements just like any other health care provider. “Defunding” really means that Medicaid patients are no longer allowed to turn to Planned Parenthood for cancer screenings, birth control, and HIV and STI testing and treatment.
- More than half of Planned Parenthood health centers are in rural or underserved areas. Those hurt most would be those already struggling to get by and those who already face barriers to accessing health care — especially people of color and people with low to moderate incomes. Without Planned Parenthood, many patients would have nowhere else to go for care.
- For patients who receive health coverage through federally funded insurance programs like Medicaid, Planned Parenthood health centers can help fill a critical gap so patients don’t have to choose between health care and buying food or gas.
- Experts, including the American Public Health Association, have said it is “ludicrous” to suggest other providers could simply take on Planned Parenthood’s patients adding that “defunding” could cause “an immediate health care access crisis.”

I stand in support of Planned Parenthood and reproductive health care because of, not in spite of, my faith. This is a critical moment for people of faith to lift our voices, follow the teachings of our faith, and call on our senators to protect health care for those in need.

- Access to health care is a deeply moral issue and my faith teaches that it is unjust to deny basic healthcare to people who cannot afford it.
- More than 70 percent of Planned Parenthood patients live at 150 percent of the federal poverty level and turn to Planned Parenthood for potentially lifesaving care. This bill eschews love, generosity, and kindness in favor of a cynical and immoral attack on people with low incomes.

Historically, leaders of faith have been integral to the reproductive health care and rights movement because of our commitment to social justice and equitable access to health care.

- As early as the 1930s, leaders of religious denominations passed pro-birth control resolutions, and a decade later 3,000 clergy came together to publicly oppose birth control restrictions. In the 1950s, faith leaders successfully protested hospitals’ decisions to restrict birth control services.
- Prominent clergy were critical to the early work of Planned Parenthood and eventually created its first National Clergyman’s Advisory Council. Seven decades later, the group continues today as the Clergy Advocacy Board.

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- Today, the U.S. is at an all-time low for unintended teen pregnancy and at the lowest point for unintended pregnancies overall since the 1970s. That is largely attributable to increased access to birth control.
  - If you want to have fewer unintended pregnancies, we need to ensure women have access to Planned Parenthood.

## Op-Ed Template

*Note: This is just a guide. Please add personal affiliation as well as stories and religious doctrine (like scripture, etc) to make this more personal.*

Access to health care is a deeply moral issue. As a person of faith, I won't sit silently while the Senate works secretly behind closed doors to deny care to millions by repealing the Affordable Care Act and blocking people with low incomes from seeking care at Planned Parenthood. This is a critical moment for people of faith to lift our voices and call on elected leaders to protect health care for those in need. We can choose to abandon the teachings of our faith and ignore the people who will suffer if this bill is passed, or we can stand up for justice and equitable access to healthcare. As a deeply religious [FAITH TRADITION] who has dedicated my life's work to [YOUR DESCRIPTION OF BEING A CLERGY MEMBER/FAITH LEADER], I am choosing to stand with Planned Parenthood.

Without Planned Parenthood, many low income [NAME FOR RESIDENTS OF STATE] would have nowhere else to turn for care. More than 70 percent of Planned Parenthood patients live at 150 percent of the federal poverty level and turn to Planned Parenthood for critical preventive care, including birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings, and testing for sexually transmitted infections.

This work is sacred because other health care providers can not meet the need, and it will result in suffering.

And yet Senate leadership is pushing a bill to disallow Planned Parenthood to accept Medicaid, leaving people without their trusted health care provider.

This violates the very core of [RELIGION OR FAITH]. It eschews love, generosity, and kindness in favor of a cynical and immoral attack on people with low incomes. I cannot in good conscience support this bill, which would take away from those in need, and I hope [TARGET SENATOR] shares my deep concerns.

Health care is a human right owed to all people — regardless of where you live or your income level.

I am compelled by my faith to confront the oppressive values that underlie this bill, and I am not alone. In standing with Planned Parenthood, faith leaders across the country are following in the longstanding tradition of clergy championing access to reproductive health care.

Leaders of faith committed to social justice are an integral part of the history of the reproductive health care and rights movement. As early as the 1930s, faith leaders passed pro-birth control resolutions, and a decade later 3,000 clergy publicly opposed birth control restrictions. Prominent clergy advanced the early work of Planned Parenthood, and eventually created its first National Clergyman's Advisory Council. Seven decades later, the group continues today as the Clergy Advocacy Board [IF A MEMBER: which I am proud to serve today]. Faith leaders have spoken out for nearly a century on the injustice of restricting birth control.

And now, in the wake of this unjust bill, faith leaders are continuing our support of reproductive rights because of, not in spite of, our faith.

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Stripping access to health care from millions of people is both immoral and hypocritical. Lawmakers won't lose their health care if this bill passes, but millions of Americans will. My faith teaches me that it is unjust to deny basic healthcare to people who cannot afford it.

Our faith requires action in the face of injustice. We cannot sit by silently while lives hang in the balance — it is morally imperative that we use our voices to speak out for people in need. I urge people of faith to join me by calling [TARGET SENATOR]'s office to oppose this bill.

We must be bold in our defense of those most vulnerable in our society. If we allow the Senate to repeal the Affordable Care Act and block patients from Planned Parenthood, we are failing our neighbors and our communities.

Millions of people turn to Planned Parenthood each year because they know they will receive affordable, comprehensive and compassionate care. It's time for [TARGET SENATOR] to extend that same compassion to the people of [STATE] and protect Planned Parenthood.

## Letter to The Editor (LTE) Template

As a [TITLE AS FAITH LEADER] proudly serving the [CITY], community, I have always been committed to speaking my conscience. Access to health care is a deeply moral issue and I am appalled that Senate leadership is working secretly behind closed doors to pass a health care repeal bill and block people with low incomes from seeking care at Planned Parenthood.

More than 70 percent of Planned Parenthood patients live at 150 percent of the federal poverty level. Without Planned Parenthood, many low-income [NAME FOR RESIDENTS OF STATE] would have nowhere else to turn for critical preventive care, including birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings, and STI testing and treatment.

This bill eschews the love, generosity, and kindness of my faith in favor of a cynical and immoral attack on people with low incomes. I hope [SENATE TARGET] shares my deep concerns and I urge [PRONOUN] to block any attempt to attack the care Planned Parenthood provides.

[NAME]  
[PLACE OF WORSHIP/COMMUNITY]  
[CITY]