

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 6, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Speaker Ryan:

As we begin this new Congress, we are outraged at your promise to defund Planned Parenthood as Republicans rush to rip apart the health care system, but we are not surprised. We have seen this before. In fact, since 2007 when Vice President-elect Pence first waged the battle to defund our nation's largest provider of women's health care, we have seen 16 attempts and reached the brink of shutdown, led by extreme, right-wing Republicans to undermine and end women's access to care at clinics across the country. Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood would make America sick again by denying women access to vital, affordable health care services.

Your decision to continue down this harmful, partisan path this year will put the wellbeing and lives of women nationwide at risk—and we urge you to put those patients' needs ahead of scoring political points.


An overwhelming share of Americans—69 percent of voters including 56 percent of Republicans—support Planned Parenthood and oppose shutting down the federal government over its funding. One in five women uses Planned Parenthood as her primary means of health care. In fact, Planned Parenthood serves 2.5 million patients in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, sixty percent of whom are women and families who are Medicaid beneficiaries. In one-fifth of the counties in which they are located, Planned Parenthood sites are the sole safety-net family planning center. Doubling down on repeal and defunding Planned Parenthood ensures that women across the country must bear twice the burden.

Republican efforts to defund Planned Parenthood would harm communities who can least afford it, ultimately increasing health care costs. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) when scoring previous Republican proposals to defund Planned Parenthood made clear that the people most likely to experience reduced access to care would likely reside in areas without access to other health care clinics or medical practitioners who serve low-income populations. CBO even estimated that the House's extreme right-wing bill to fully defund Planned Parenthood would cost taxpayers over \$130 million because 45 percent of all births are paid for by Medicaid.

As you know, President-elect Trump praised Planned Parenthood on the campaign trail and affirmed that it has done "very good work for millions of women." We urge you to reconsider


putting partisan political fights ahead of women's access to health care. The women and men who rely on Planned Parenthood are Republicans and Democrats alike—and they did not vote for an extreme political agenda that undermines their access to quality, affordable health care at providers they trust. We urge you to stop the attack on Planned Parenthood immediately.

Sincerely,


Patty Murray
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator


Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator


Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Cory Booker
United States Senator


Sherrod Brown
United States Senator


Maria Cantwell
United States Senator


Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Bob Casey, Jr.

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Chris Coons

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Dick Durbin

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Al Franken

Al Franken
United States Senator

Maggie Hassan

Margaret W. Hassan
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Mazie Hirono

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

Robert Menendez

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Chris Murphy

Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

Bern Sanders

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



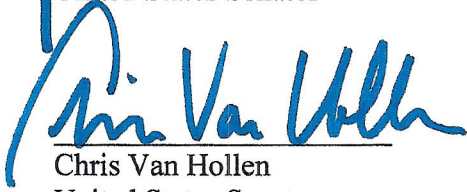
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Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
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Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
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Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



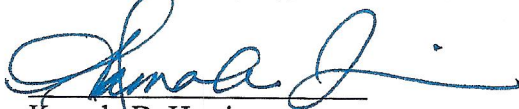
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Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator