



PRESS RELEASE

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National and State Organizations Take a Stand with Planned Parenthood

Allied organizations call on Governor Inslee, Attorney General Ferguson, and Secretary Wiesman to reject calls to investigate Planned Parenthood for wrongdoing

Seattle, Wash. – This morning, national and Washington State advocacy organizations joined together to submit a letter to Governor Jay Inslee, Attorney General Bob Ferguson, and Secretary of Health John Wiesman, denouncing requests for harassing and unwarranted investigations into Planned Parenthood’s operations and funding.

The letter comes in response to a smear campaign by anti-abortion extremists—in which a series of highly edited videos are being used to vilify trusted health care providers and to advance efforts to take away women’s access to abortion and other basic reproductive health care—and to a subsequent letter from Republican legislators calling for an investigation into Washington State Planned Parenthood affiliates’ operations.

“These shamelessly—and shamefully—edited videos misrepresent what Planned Parenthood does, what it stands for, and what it means to the people of our state,” said Lisa M. Stone, Executive Director of Legal Voice. **“This letter is to let our elected officials know that we stand with Planned Parenthood, and that the people of Washington will not be deprived of our health care, our dignity, or our privacy because of an unethical group of ideologues.”**

The effort to defund Planned Parenthood is an attack on access to basic preventive health care for more than 100,000 Washingtonians who receive care from Planned Parenthood each year.

“Planned Parenthood provides critical life-saving and preventive care to women and men across Washington State and the country,” said Leah Rutman of the ACLU of Washington. **“The ACLU is proud to support Planned Parenthood and wants to ensure that groundless attacks do not deprive communities of vital services that help women and families, day in and day out.”**

Planned Parenthood provides a wide range of health services, including abortion, birth control, breast and cervical cancer screenings, and STD and HIV screenings. For many uninsured and under-insured people, Planned Parenthood is the only source they have for these services.

“The vital role Planned Parenthood has played in the lives of women of all ages, ethnicities, and backgrounds is unmatched and needs unwavering support,” said Joelle Craft of Washington CAN!.

Governor Jay Inslee has already [issued a statement](#): “Planned Parenthood is on the front lines of women’s health care. I stand with them in their efforts to ensure every woman needing access to safe and legal reproductive health care can get it.”

The letter follows this release.

Full list of signing organizations: American Civil Liberties Union of Washington; American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Washington Section; Fuse Washington; Legal Voice; Physicians for Reproductive Health; NARAL Pro-Choice Washington; National Council of Jewish Women, Seattle Chapter; National Women’s Political Caucus of Washington; Northwest Health Law Advocates; OneAmerica; Seattle Women’s Commission; The CAIR Project; Washington Community Action Network; Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence; and Win/Win Action.

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Legal Voice is a nonprofit women’s rights legal organization that pursues justice for all women and girls in the Northwest through ground-breaking litigation, legislative advocacy, and educational tools to help individuals understand their rights. More at www.legalvoice.org.

ACLU of Washington is a nonprofit membership organization devoted to defending the freedoms of the Bill of Rights and extending them to groups which have historically been denied equal rights under the law.