

To: House Pro-Women's Health Offices

From: Dana Singiser, Vice President for Government Relations & Public Policy, PPFA; Jacqueline Ayers, Legislative Director, PPFA

Re: PPFA Vote Recommendation on HR 3134 and HR 3504

Date: September 16, 2015

This week the House is set to continue pressing its all out assault on women's health by voting on two bills that seek to restrict women's reproductive health. In the 114th Congress, the House has already taken four anti-women's health votes and is set to take two additional votes to restrict access to women's health care. This is already twice the number of anti-women's health votes than at this same point in the 113th and 112th Congresses – and this Congress is not even half over.

The ultimate goal of anti-abortion extremists in Congress is to promote their political agenda of banning safe, legal abortion in this country. This anti-women's health agenda is what has been driving the recent attacks on Planned Parenthood health services with the use of heavily edited and secretly recorded videotapes falsely portraying Planned Parenthood's participation in tissue donation programs that support lifesaving scientific research. These outrageous and false claims about Planned Parenthood have been thoroughly discredited. Planned Parenthood follows all laws and has provided all the [facts](#) and has been transparent to the public and Congress. Most importantly, we have worked to continue to provide the highest quality health care to the women, men, and young people who step through our doors every day.

Vote NO on HR 3134 The Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015

- In a politically motivated attempt to limit access to critical health care for millions of women, men and young people, Rep. Diane Black (R-TN-6) has introduced H.R. 3134, the Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015, which would prohibit all federal funding for Planned Parenthood health centers for one year.
- H.R. 3134 would have a devastating impact on women — especially women in rural communities and low income women — by denying Planned Parenthood health centers federal funding for preventive care, including family planning services, well-woman exams, lifesaving cancer screenings, birth control, testing and treatments for sexually transmitted infections and vital sex education programs.
- This effort to bar Planned Parenthood health centers from receiving any federal funds would shatter the country's public health safety net and jeopardize women's health.
 - In fact, the Guttmacher Institute recently [found](#) that in 21 percent of the counties with a Planned Parenthood health center, Planned Parenthood is the only safety-net family planning provider.
 - The report also cited “In two-thirds of the 491 counties in which they are located, Planned Parenthood health centers serve at least half of all women obtaining contraceptive care from safety-net health centers. In one-fifth of the counties in

which they are located, Planned Parenthood sites are the sole safety-net family planning center.”

Vote NO on HR 3504 The Born Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act

- This bill is yet another attempt to politicize women’s health and limit women’s access to abortion.
- This bill would interfere with the sacred doctor-patient relationship and substitute a physician’s best judgment with that of a group of politicians. That is why providers groups like ACOG oppose this legislation.
- Unfortunately, this legislation offered by Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ) rolls back that carefully crafted bipartisan agreement reached in 2002. The bipartisan Born Alive Infants Protection Act state that when a baby is born alive, it requires a certain standard of care. Women’s reproductive health organizations did not oppose this bill at the time because it did not alter current law in a significant way, did not change current clinical practice and did not roll back the important protections of Roe v. Wade.
- Planned Parenthood strongly opposes this bill because it would also add new criminal penalties against doctors and clinicians as a scare tactics that serves the sole purpose of scaring women away from seeking safe, legal, abortion.
- Finally, the vague language and broad provisions leave significant uncertainty about what the bill actually does. By rushing a vaguely drafted bill to the floor, Rep. Franks is forcing his colleagues to vote on a bill without full knowledge of its impact.

Planned Parenthood provides a wide range of preventive health care services, and serves a total of 2.7 million patients per year and provides sex education and outreach services to 1.5 million people each year. More than 90 percent of what we do nationally is preventive care, including lifesaving cancer screenings, birth control, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). State information about Planned Parenthood’s services can be found [here](#).

BOTTOM LINE:

Planned Parenthood strongly urges you to oppose H.R. 3134 and H.R. 3504, anti-women’s health legislation that would limit women’s access to safe, legal reproductive health care. Intent to score letters to follow shortly.