

March 11, 2017

Congressman Tom McClintock
2312 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Re: *HR 354 - Defunding Planned Parenthood*

Dear Congressman McClintock:

As a member of your constituency, I am taking the time to write this letter, and I sincerely hope that by doing so, you will take into consideration the following:

HR 354 would deny Federal funding to Planned Parenthood, a non-profit organization that primarily serves poor women by providing contraception and cancer screening, as well as access to safe and legal abortions. They receive **no Federal funding for abortion services**. That has been denied to all providers for decades under the Hyde Amendment. So, what HR 354 would defund boils down to contraception and cancer screening for women.

Unplanned pregnancy is the number one reason women seek an abortion. Why would you want to reduce access to the very care that prevents unplanned pregnancy? Do you want more women to get pregnant when they don't want to have children? The availability of contraception has steadily reduced the number of abortions in America to the point that there are fewer each year and far fewer than when abortion was illegal. It has also allowed women to plan their families so that they may have a career and lead enriched lives. Why are you and other Republicans so against this idea? Are there not enough underprivileged children here already?

Planned Parenthood is also a major provider of cancer screening for cancers that kill thousands of women every year. Why would you want to cut off funding for this preventative health care so vital to women? Do you want more women to succumb to cancer?

We have important problems to solve in America. Punishing women by depriving them of access to vital reproductive healthcare is not one of them. HR 354 will cause enormous suffering to women and only increase the number of abortions by decreasing available contraception. I urge you to re-focus your efforts toward supporting women, rather than taking their health care away.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Rohm