

Public Overwhelmingly Supports Planned Parenthood

Since the latest fraudulent attacks on Planned Parenthood launched last year, national polls have found broad, deep support for the organization and its ability to provide health care services to millions of people - and the public has mobilized on behalf of Planned Parenthood.

Fifteen separate nationwide polls and nine polls in political swing states also show strong favorability for Planned Parenthood and strong opposition to efforts in Congress to block patients from accessing high quality, lifesaving care at Planned Parenthood.

These polls stem from the deep and longstanding relationship that many Americans have with Planned Parenthood, the nation's leading provider of reproductive health care and sex education. For a century, people have relied on Planned Parenthood for reproductive health care and information. Each year, Planned Parenthood health centers serve millions of patients essential services and information, such as birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings, safe, legal abortion, and other high-quality health cares. An estimated one in five American women reports having been to Planned Parenthood for care in her lifetime.

All 15 national polls conducted in the wake of these attacks or during the 2016 election cycle show strong support for Planned Parenthood and extraordinarily strong opposition to dogmatic policies targeting federal funding for care.

- A [New York Times/CBS News Poll](#) taken in the middle of the 2015 funding fight found that most Americans think Planned Parenthood should continue to receive government funding. The nationwide survey found that **congressional Republicans have more to lose** in yet another budget fight; more Americans would blame Republicans than other political actors if the government were to shut down over the funding of Planned Parenthood.
- In a [Pew Research Center Poll](#), a majority of Americans surveyed say that **any budget deal must maintain funding for Planned Parenthood**. This Pew poll found that if lawmakers fail to agree on a budget and the government does shut down, more say the Republicans are to blame than any other participant.

- A [Quinnipiac University National poll](#) found that **69 percent of American voters – including 56 percent of Republican voters – oppose shutting down the federal government** over funding Planned Parenthood. The majority of voters oppose blocking patients using Medicaid from accessing Planned Parenthood, and a strong 60 percent percent of women oppose blocking access to care at Planned Parenthood.
- A poll from [NBC News/Wall Street Journal](#) found **6 in 10 Americans say they're opposed to completely eliminating Planned Parenthood's federal funding** – including more than 40 percent who are “strongly” opposed. The poll demonstrates that American attitudes about Planned Parenthood were virtually unchanged after extremists released a series of deceptively edited videos.
- The latest poll from [CNN/ORC](#) found that **7 out of 10 Americans oppose shutting down the government** in order to block patients from accessing care at Planned Parenthood. Even the majority of those who labeled themselves as “Conservative” agree that it is more important to avoid a government shutdown than block patients using Medicaid from accessing Planned Parenthood, and a strong 76 percent of respondents who make under \$50K a year share the same view.
- A [poll from Hart research](#) found that **64 percent of voters, including 72 percent of independent voters, disagree with attempts to block patients from accessing care at Planned Parenthood**. Only 28 percent of voters support efforts to block patients using Medicaid from accessing Planned Parenthood, and voters overwhelmingly say they would support a candidate who favors funding Planned Parenthood over a candidate who supports blocking patients from accessing care at Planned Parenthood health centers.
- [YouGov](#) found that **a solid majority of Americans have a favorable view of Planned Parenthood – virtually unchanged from a year prior**. The poll found that more than a third of people who think abortion should be banned in all cases have a favorable view of Planned Parenthood.
- A [Reuters/Ipsos](#) poll showed that a majority of Americans support federal funding for Planned Parenthood's preventive services, and strongly oppose attempts to block millions of patients across the country from accessing care at Planned Parenthood's health centers. **Fully 54 percent of people said they support federal funding for Planned Parenthood, and just 26 percent oppose**. When asked about federal funding for reproductive health services generally, compared to funding for the same services at Planned Parenthood specifically, respondents were more supportive (by as much as 10 percent) of funding health care services at Planned Parenthood.
- An [NBC-WSJ poll](#) showed that **Planned Parenthood has a significantly higher favorability rating than any other group or individual tested** – including the U.S. Supreme Court, President Obama, both political parties, and key Republicans running for president.
- And a [Fox News poll](#) showed that **voters agree that Planned Parenthood should continue to receive federal funding**, even after the video attacks in 2015. In addition, the Fox News poll found that more voters than not view Planned Parenthood positively.
- A nationwide [USA TODAY/Suffolk University Poll](#) found that two-thirds of Americans continue to support funding for Planned Parenthood.

- [Rasmussen Report](#) found that voter attitudes about Planned Parenthood had not changed approximately three months after the release of the first video from CMP – a majority of Americans still viewed Planned Parenthood favorably.
- [Associated Press-GfK](#) found that **69 percent** of those surveyed do not support forcing a government shutdown to block Planned Parenthood’s funding, and **less than half of Republicans** would entertain this idea.
- [USA TODAY/Suffolk University](#) also found that **Americans overwhelmingly oppose** cutting off federal funds for Planned Parenthood, with the majority of those surveyed responding that funding should not be eliminated.
- A [POLITICO-Harvard poll](#) found that **70 percent of Clinton voters – and 48 percent of Trump voters – are in favor of continued federal funding for Planned Parenthood.**

In addition to the widespread, steady support and trust people all over the country place in Planned Parenthood, national polls show Americans believe women should be able to access abortion safely and legally.

- A [Bloomberg Politics national poll](#) found that **67 percent of Americans surveyed said the Supreme Court was right to rule that women have a constitutional right to abortion.**
- A poll from [Perry/Undem](#) shows that nearly two-thirds (**63 percent**) of participants said state level anti-abortion laws are going in the **wrong direction**. And, when asked to choose one word to describe their reaction to the list of new state restrictions, **many chose words like “unfair,” “wrong,” “disgusted,” “ridiculous,” and “angry.”**
- A [PerryUndem poll](#) commissioned by Vox found that **the majority of Americans oppose restrictions meant to shutter health centers or make it more difficult for women to access abortion**, and that 70 percent of Americans don’t want to see *Roe vs. Wade* overturned.
- A [PerryUndem poll](#) commissioned by the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health found that **67 percent of Latino voters do not want to see *Roe v. Wade* overturned**, and that **69 percent of Latino voters said they believe abortion should remain legal regardless of whether church leaders oppose it.**

Since these attacks began last year, polls in political swing states continue to show extremely strong support for Planned Parenthood.

- Five separate [Public Policy Polling polls](#), conducted in the key 2016 swing states of North Carolina, New Hampshire, Nevada, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, show that a majority of voters reported being less likely to vote for candidates who want to block patients from care at Planned Parenthood health centers. The findings show that support for Planned Parenthood cuts across party lines, resonating with not just Democrats but independent voters – a key electoral demographic – and more than a third of Republican voters in each state.



- In North Carolina **80 percent of independent voters and even 38 percent of Republicans in the state reporting a positive opinion of Planned Parenthood.**
- In Nevada, **65 percent of voters report a positive view of Planned Parenthood, with 50 percent reporting a “very” positive view of the nonprofit health care provider.**
- In New Hampshire, **55 percent of voters say they are less likely to vote for a candidate who wants to “defund” Planned Parenthood.**
- In Ohio, positive feelings about Planned Parenthood transcend party lines as well, **with 51 percent of independent voters and even 41 percent of Republicans in the state reporting a positive opinion of Planned Parenthood.**
- In Pennsylvania, **60 percent of voters report a positive view of Planned Parenthood, with 44 percent reporting a “very” positive view of the nonprofit health care provider. Even 41 percent of Republicans in the state have a positive view of Planned Parenthood.**

[Three surveys](#) conducted by Hart Research show that despite attacks from anti-abortion extremists and their allies in Congress, voters in the battleground states of New Hampshire, Ohio, and Pennsylvania strongly support Planned Parenthood. The polls found strong opposition to blocking patients using Medicaid from accessing the preventive health services, including cancer screenings and birth control, that Planned Parenthood provides to millions of women in communities across the country – as well as overwhelming opposition to a government shutdown over Planned Parenthood.

Key findings from the surveys include:

- **66 percent of New Hampshire voters oppose** blocking patients from accessing Planned Parenthood’s preventive health services, including 72 percent of Independents.
- **65 percent of Ohio voters oppose** blocking patients from accessing Planned Parenthood’s preventive health services, including 59 percent of Independents.
- **69 percent of Pennsylvania voters oppose** blocking patients from accessing Planned Parenthood’s preventive health services, including 69 percent of Independents.
- Large majorities of voters in each state (65 percent in New Hampshire, 60 percent in Ohio, and 65 percent in Pennsylvania) **do not believe that blocking patients from accessing care at Planned Parenthood is justified by the deceptively edited videos released by anti-abortion extremists.**
- Overwhelming majorities of voters in each state (75 percent in New Hampshire, 74 percent in Ohio, and 76 percent in Pennsylvania), including majorities of Republican voters, **have an unfavorable reaction to the idea of shutting down the federal government to block any funding for Planned Parenthood.**
- By a two to one margin, voters in all three states are **less likely to vote to re-elect their senators if they vote to block patients from accessing care at Planned Parenthood.**

An additional [Poll in Maine](#) from Hart Research found that **70 percent of Maine voters** oppose the attempt by congressional Republicans to end all government funding for Planned Parenthood, with 55 percent **strongly opposed**.

Millennials are a critical voting demographic, and according to a poll of [Cosmopolitan](#) readers (conducted in partnership with John Della Volpe, CEO of SocialSphere and director of polling at the Harvard Institute for Politics), reproductive rights, health care and racism are among their top priorities. In fact, **millennials voters reported prioritizing reproductive rights** and health care as their most important issues for the 2016 election. The poll found that **68 percent of those surveyed listed health care as their top priority**, and **61 percent listed reproductive rights as the top issue for them in the 2016 election** – above national security or jobs.

Millions of supporters fought back against these unprecedented attacks against Planned Parenthood at **Pink Out Day 2015**.

September 29, 2015, was dubbed "[National Pink Out Day](#)." Volunteers, allies, and supporters wore pink, attended events, held press conferences, and gathered together to stand with Planned Parenthood in all 50 states.

- In Albuquerque, NM, Baltimore, MD, Boise, ID, St. Louis, MO, and Raleigh, NC, over 100 volunteers and supporters attended rallies, and in Los Angeles, CA, New York City, NY, Portland, ME, and Philadelphia, PA, crowds swelled to over 300. And it wasn't just rallies: Other supporters celebrated Pink Out by hiking through Park City, UT; in Concord, NH, supporters gathered at night to light up the state capitol; and in Fairbanks, AK, volunteers braved the snow to show their support.
- Additionally, 28 sites offered free STD testing, and more than 100 patients and supporters joined 21 members of Congress in Washington, DC, to deliver petitions with more than 2.4 million signatures asking Congress not to block patients from accessing care through the reproductive health care nonprofit. Ads in support of Planned Parenthood also appeared across a number of political news sites, including the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Politico*, *Mother Jones*, and *Daily Kos*. The ads mirror the sentiment of Pink Out Day in their copy: "Birth Control, Cancer Screenings, Reproductive Rights and Planned Parenthood are worth fighting for."
- Pink Out Day also saw hundreds of thousands of supporters fighting back on social media. All day, #PinkOut trended in the top 3 nationally and it reached number 7 globally. Nearly 500,000 people "pinked out" their Facebook and Twitter pages, and the #PinkOut [Thunderclap](#) reached over 7.8 million people.
- A diverse coalition of 373 organizations participated in Pink Out Day as well, including MoveOn.org, CREDO Action, and People for the American Way – helping to organize grassroots events across the country, gathering signatures on grassroots petitions in support of Planned Parenthood and against the latest attacks on reproductive health.

