

## **Background on the case**

In the suit filed on June 2, 2016 in Florida, Planned Parenthood has asked a federal district court to protect patient privacy and access to both health care and education for thousands of Floridians by blocking restrictions signed into law by Governor Rick Scott. For a copy of the filed complaint seeking relief, please click [here](#). The plaintiffs are represented by James K. Green, P.A., Lawyers, West Palm Beach as well as lawyers from PPFA.

If it takes effect, the law would threaten access to birth control, breast and cervical cancer screenings, and other care for thousands of Title X patients and approximately 14,500 STI tests through the CDC STI Prevention Program. In an unprecedented invasion of patient privacy, the law also mandates that state officials review the health records of at least half of all women who have an abortion.

## **Floridians need more -- not less -- access to health care**

Florida is already [tied for last](#) when it comes to women's health and well-being, and is facing some of the [highest cervical cancer rates in the nation](#). Florida has the [third highest number of gonorrhea infections](#) and the [highest number of annual HIV diagnoses](#) in the nation.

Planned Parenthood plays an [irreplaceable role](#) in helping women, men and young people in Florida get needed care. In Florida, 78% of Planned Parenthood's health centers are in rural or medically underserved areas, meaning that often without Planned Parenthood, patients would have nowhere else to turn for reproductive health care. [Over a third of Florida counties](#) don't have an OB/GYN provider. [As of 2013](#), there were 1.2 million women in Florida in need of affordable birth control.

## **Planned Parenthood's critical role as a health care provider**

In both Palm Beach County and Collier County, Planned Parenthood affiliates serve [nearly half](#) of women in need of affordable contraception at publicly funded family planning health centers. Yet Florida politicians have claimed that Planned Parenthood patients can access reproductive health care at [dentists, podiatrists, correctional facilities and elementary schools](#).

This law would have an outsized impact on groups who have historically faced systemic barriers in accessing quality health care, including people with low income and communities of color. Florida ranks as having the [third highest Latino population](#) in all 50 states, and more than 11,000 of our patients at Florida Planned Parenthood health centers are Latino. This law will make it even harder for them to access vital health screenings and care. Latinos are more likely to die from preventable diseases like cervical cancer – in which screening, early detection and follow-up care makes all the difference.

Blocking care at Planned Parenthood has very real and devastating consequences for the communities served. In Texas, a recent study in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#) showed that blocking patients from going to Planned Parenthood led to a [35% decline in women on Medicaid using the most effective methods of birth control and a dramatic 27% spike in births among women](#) who had previously had access to injectable contraception through Medicaid.