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Planned Parenthood recently mailed a brochure to citizens in my Senate district. The brochure is inaccurate and misleading. Planned Parenthood wants citizens to believe that I oppose health care for low-income and uninsured women. This charge is totally false.

It is true that I voted for this year's budget bill, HB 1010, to fund the Department of Health and Senior Services. HB 1010 did not contain funding for the State's family planning program this year. The program was eliminated the previous year due to the budget crisis. However, I did support funding in another budget, HB 1011, bill to provide health care to low-income and uninsured women.

Specifically, I supported shifting the funding (\$5 million) from the state family planning program for women to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). Total state funding to FQHC's in this year's budget is \$7 million. This was a fiscally responsible decision because the state investment then allows us to draw down additional federal funding. FQHC's provide a more efficient, cost-effective, and comprehensive delivery of a broad range of primary care.

FQHC's provide much more comprehensive health care than Planned Parenthood. FQHC's provide primary health care not only to women, but also to their children and husbands. FQHC's focus is on "primary care, prevention, education, and case management. Patients are billed on a sliding scale so that income or insurance status are not barriers to care."

FQHC's must provide or arrange for comprehensive primary and preventative care including physicians, nurses, lab, x-ray, pharmacy, dental, mental health, health and nutrition, education, periodic scheduling and other such services to ensure access.

Low income and uninsured women WILL NOT go without annual Pap tests, cancer screenings, and contraception as Planned Parenthood threatens. By federal law, FQHC's are required to provide family planning services, therefore, these women will now receive these services from a different provider other than Planned Parenthood. The only service they will not receive from an FQHC is an abortion.

For assistance in locating the nearest FQHC, you may call the Missouri Primary Care Association at 573-636-4222 or access their web site at www.mo-pca.org.

I am writing to set the record straight. I have supported funding and legislation to provide health care to low-income and uninsured women in Missouri. I will continue to support these initiatives in the future. What I do not support are our state tax dollars going to the biggest abortion provider in the nation.