

**Remarks by Jeffery Hons**  
**President and CEO of Planned Parenthood South Texas**  
**Monday, November 23, 2015**

In Texas, we have seen the devastating consequences for our patients when politicians block access to health care at Planned Parenthood.

These politicians have blocked patients in the Texas Women's Health Program from coming to Planned Parenthood for lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings -- screenings our health centers have provided for decades.

They've dismantled historic funding for family planning in Texas, and ended the Medicaid Women's Health Program, causing dozens of health centers to close across the state.

They've passed some of the most restrictive abortion laws in the country -- including HB2, which was intended to essentially make safe and legal abortion inaccessible, and is now before the Supreme Court.

Then, just last month, the state of Texas announced plans to kick Planned Parenthood organizations out of Medicaid--jeopardizing access to birth control, cancer screenings, HIV tests and preventive care for more than 13,500 Texans who have chosen us as their trusted provider.

And these political attacks have real consequences on people in our communities.

Taken together, these years of hostile policies have already left tens of thousands of Texas women without access to cancer screenings, birth control, HIV tests and other preventive care.

One report showed that [more than half](#) of Texas women report at least one barrier to accessing [reproductive health care](#), including lifesaving cancer screenings or family planning services.

According to the state's own [report](#), [30,000 fewer women](#) received health care through the Texas Women's Health Program (WHP) in 2013 than in 2011, following the state's takeover of the program in order to ban Planned Parenthood.

And just last week, we saw a study showing that [100,000 to 240,000](#) Texas women may have attempted to end a pregnancy on their own, without medical assistance.

This is what it looks like when politicians end access to care.

One of the patients who joined us in this suit — a 26-year-old from San Antonio who requested anonymity because of her desire not to have the private and personal nature of her care made public — wrote in her public declaration for the court: **"I have a five year-old son. I am a single parent and I am insured through Medicaid...I don't have a general doctor I go to. I try to get all of my health care at PPST. If PPST could not stay on the Medicaid program, I**

**do not know how I would get the services I need, I could not afford to pay for them and would not know where else to go.”**

Planned Parenthood is the nation’s most trusted provider of family planning and reproductive health care. In Texas, our health centers we serve more than 100,000 patients, that’s including PP Greater Texas, PP Gulf Coast, and my own organization, Planned Parenthood South Texas.

1 in 5 women in America turn to Planned Parenthood during her lifetime for basic reproductive care. The women, and men, who turn to us do so not to make a political statement --- they come to us because they need birth control, cancer screenings, STD testing and treatment, and so much more.

We will continue to fight for our patients --- by ensuring our doors stay open, no matter what, and today, by filing a lawsuit to block the illegal actions taken by the State of Texas and the devastating consequences that would ensue for Texans who rely on us.