

Today, there is a current issue that has split the nation. It is about Planned Parenthood. There is one side that says that this organization should be defunded by the government. The reason behind this is the fact that this organization supports and performs abortions. The other side is one that says that Planned Parenthood should stay funded by the government. They explain the good that the organization is doing for women who do not have the ability to receive affordable medical care elsewhere. Both sides are at an impasse because neither can find a compromise.

Both of these sides have things in common that could be considered middle ground. One, they both want what is best for women and reproductive health care. One side does not want abortions because they are potentially damaging both physically and psychologically to a woman. The other side wants all women to be able to afford and access to what they need to be healthy and educated about their body. Two, they both are very strong in what they want and believe in. Neither are willing to compromise. Both sides truly believe that their side is right and has the best interest of the woman in mind. However, whether someone is pro-life or pro-choice, it's hard not to ignore how beneficial Planned Parenthood's website sounds, "These health centers provide a wide range of safe, reliable health care — and the majority is preventive, primary care, which helps prevent unintended pregnancies through contraception, reduce the spread of sexually transmitted infections through testing and treatment, and screen for cervical and other cancers."

The people behind side one are pro life. They do not agree with what Planned Parenthood is doing when it comes to abortions. They feel that they are wrong, and

even if they did agree with them being okay, they shouldn't be performed outside of a hospital. Currently, abortions are provided in-clinic as well as by a pill. However, when only focusing on abortion, they are writing off everything else the organization is doing for women's reproductive health. They feel that the only way to stop the abortions is to defund it as a whole. Another thing spurring on this side is a controversy that was started recently about potential horrors of what goes on behind the scenes of abortions at clinics. A video was released that showed aborted baby parts being sold on the black market, which is highly illegal. This is what fired up this side of the issue. Whether it is true or not, it started something that needs to be compromised.

The second side is pro choice and feel that abortions are okay. They see no wrong with what is being done. It is legal, so they are doing no wrong. They choose to see the benefits that Planned Parenthood has for women. They see that they help women educate themselves about their body and take preventative measures to keep them safe as well as the affordability it provides. Some are not able to afford high quality health care, so Planned Parenthood is an option for them. They do not want to see this organization defunded because they see good in it and what it does for women. Pro choice constituents argued that the video controversy was a setup and never actually happened. They are adamant about what really goes on behind the scenes and how inaccurate the video is.

I would propose a compromise of keeping Planned Parenthood funded but not allow them to fund or perform abortions. This way both sides would get the solution they want. Being a strong issue, it is going to be a give-and-take compromise. Neither side

will get their way 100%. However, the benefits would still remain. For the pro life side, abortions would no longer be able to be provided by Planned Parenthood. There would be no guarantee because not everyone would comply, but the effort would be put in. Changes would have to be made to ensure that abortions could only be legal in hospitals. This would legally prevent them from happening in-clinic and by pill. For pro choice, Planned Parenthood would still receive funding to provide screenings, preventative care, education, and affordability to its clients. This leaves both at the short end of a stick; pro-life isn't able to completely shut down the organization while pro choice isn't able to keep abortions. The many benefits would remain in place. It may not be a perfect compromise, but something has to give somewhere.

This issue has many different angles, but this is just one of them. All arguments must have an audience and for this one, it will be congress. This has been an issue for quite some time, it needs common ground proposed. A proposition such as the one I stated would be enough to appease both sides. One side would be happy with no funded and practiced abortions, and the other side would be happy with keeping the good things planned parenthood does, such as care for women who may not be able to afford it otherwise. This is a battle that has and will continue to affect many lives and families. Whether it is the life of an unborn child or the life of the mother. It will ultimately fall on our democratic process to resolve the issues facing Planned Parenthood. It is time for Congress, Pro Choice advocates , and Pro Life supporters to put their differences aside and come up with a bill that will help women without making Pro Life groups feel morally threatened and keep Pro Choice groups from feeling vilified.

Works Cited

"Who We Are." *Who We Are*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 Apr. 2016.

<<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/about-us/who-we-are>>.