

# TEXAS CITIES STAND WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD

August 1, 2017

Dear Speaker Straus,

We the undersigned mayors are writing on behalf of the nearly six million Texans that make up our local communities to oppose proposed legislation that prohibits local governmental entities from partnering with Planned Parenthood.

This legislation would be devastating to our cities, where many residents already face daunting challenges in accessing affordable and quality health care. In the state with the highest uninsured rate in the country, every resource we have to support the health of our citizens is essential. Trusted partnerships between Planned Parenthood and our cities strengthen our communities' access to health care and health education services.


In Texas, nearly 130,000 people a year depend on Planned Parenthood health centers for essential, quality health care. Community-based Planned Parenthood health centers offer preventive exams, lifesaving cancer screenings, immunizations, contraceptive services, HIV testing, and STI testing and treatment. Without Planned Parenthood, Texans may delay or go without this vital care.

Local governments and health officials should have the ability and authority to partner with Planned Parenthood or any other qualified nonprofit organization to address the health needs of our communities. By restricting local resources, the state would jeopardize the health and well-being of our citizens.

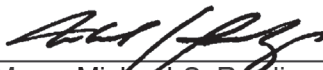
Texans are looking to their elected officials for real solutions. We are committed to driving economic growth, ensuring the safety and security of our communities, and increasing opportunity for all. Access to affordable health care is critical to those efforts and politicizing women's health only undermines them.

We urge you to put the health of Texas communities first and to not allow this legislation to come to the floor of the Texas House during the special legislative session.

Sincerely,



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Steve Adler  
City of Austin



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Mayor Michael S. Rawlings  
City of Dallas



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Mayor Sylvester Turner  
City of Houston



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Mayor Ron Nirenberg  
City of San Antonio