

to women and their access to health care and for pointing out the confounding thing about defunding Planned Parenthood, which is that we are not even talking about abortion, as we have already restricted that Federal funding.

Madam Speaker, we are talking about access to health care to underserved women, to low-income women, who are trying to get general wellness checkups, who are trying to have cancer screenings, who are trying to access health care.

It is Planned Parenthood that fills that void in our underserved populations, in our rural areas. That is where they make a critical difference.

You are absolutely right in that the messaging that this is somehow about something else is completely hiding the fact that we are bringing bills to the floor without committee hearings, that we are not being transparent, and that we are misleading the American public about what this debate is about.

I am delighted that we also have another champion for working families and a great voice for the communities he serves.

I yield to my colleague from California's 36th District, Congressman RUIZ.

Mr. RUIZ, I thank the gentlewoman.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of a woman's right to choose, women's health, and Planned Parenthood.

You see, before I ran for Congress, I spent 9 years as an emergency medicine physician. A few years ago, a 55-year-old woman came into my emergency room with a gynecological hemorrhage.

After we stopped the bleeding in the ER, we admitted her for diagnosis and treatment. Sadly, as I suspected, she had advanced cervical cancer, and 5 months later, she died, leaving her family behind.

Until recently, cervical cancer was the leading cause of cancer deaths for women in the United States. However, over the past 40 years, we have dramatically reduced the number of deaths from cervical cancer.

According to the CDC, "This decline largely is the result of many women getting regular Pap tests, which can find cervical pre-cancer before it turns into cancer."

Madam Speaker, that is what is at stake in this debate.

In fact, 97 percent of Planned Parenthood's services are not abortion related. Planned Parenthood provides many health and wellness services, including STI testing, contraceptives, and cancer screenings to over 2 million women and men each year.

Opponents of Planned Parenthood's want to turn this into a debate about abortion, but it is not. Let's be clear. Defunding Planned Parenthood won't reduce the number of abortions at all.

This is a debate about cervical cancer. This is a debate about breast cancer. This is a debate about how many women we are going to allow to go

undiagnosed and untreated. This is a debate about how many women we are going to allow to show up in emergency rooms like mine, with terminal cancer, too late to be saved.

In California alone, Planned Parenthood health centers have provided over 93,000 Pap tests for cervical cancer and 97,000 breast exams to help prevent death from breast cancer.

Madam Speaker, Planned Parenthood saves lives.

Here is who actually loses if Planned Parenthood loses its funding: Women in geographically underserved areas lose; uninsured and underinsured women lose; women on Medicaid lose; and low-income women lose.

Planned Parenthood fills that access gap and provides essential health services to those who need it the most. Cutting their funding will have a long-term, devastating effect on the overall health of women in our communities, worsening health outcomes and health disparities for women across our Nation.

To me, this isn't a political debate, because I have seen firsthand what happens when women don't have access to preventative care. Women die; children are left without their mothers; and families are torn apart.

It is for these reasons that I oppose this misguided, mean-spirited, politically driven measure, and it is for these reasons that I stand with Planned Parenthood.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. I thank the gentleman from California for sharing his experience as a medical doctor and as someone who stands with Planned Parenthood.

Thank you for joining us.

Congressman RUIZ raises an interesting point about looking at our system of health care.

Part of the proposal from the Republicans is that this is easy, that we can simply take the money from Planned Parenthood and give it to community health centers, but there is simply not the capacity in the system to handle these extra patients.

Currently, more than half of Medicaid providers are not offering appointments to new Medicaid patients, but two-thirds of the States report difficulty in ensuring enough providers, including OB/GYN care.

Madam Speaker, this hurts low-income women especially hard because 60 percent of Planned Parenthood patients access care through Medicaid and/or Title X, and 35 percent of women view their OB/GYN as their main source of care.

So what we are talking about here is not abortion, but women's health care, preventative measures that save lives.

We know that over 90 percent of the services Planned Parenthood provides are preventative. We know that they serve underserved areas.

We know that there isn't enough capacity to see these patients in other settings and that eliminating funding for Planned Parenthood would mean

over 390,000 patients would no longer receive health care.

If all of this sounds crazy to you, you are not alone. It is why I came down here tonight, and I thank my colleagues who joined me.

It is time that we reveal the falsehoods of this argument and defeat these efforts—these radical efforts—that are threatening to shut down our government in order to defund Planned Parenthood, which carries so much of our healthcare system for women in this country and especially for low-income women.

It is time we stand up, debunk the lies and the mysteries that we are being told, and let women have the healthcare access that they need and deserve.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 719. An act to require the Transportation Security Administration to conform to existing Federal law and regulations regarding criminal investigator positions, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1090. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide eligibility for broadcasting facilities to receive certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1580. An act to allow additional appointing authorities to select individuals from competitive service certificates.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1090. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide eligibility for broadcasting facilities to receive certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

S. 1580. An act to allow additional appointing authorities to select individuals from competitive service certificates; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 17 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 18, 2015, at 9 a.m.