

HUFFPOST POLITICS

Edition: US ▾

Search The Huffington Post

Like **5.3m** Follow

FRONT PAGE POLITICS BUSINESS MEDIA WORLDPOST SCIENCE TECH HEALTHY LIVING HUFFPOST LIVE

XFINITY X1 Double Play
1-800-XFINITY

Get started at **\$79⁹⁹**
a month for 12 months

xfinity.

Get It Now ▶

AdChoices

Planned Parenthood Probes Find No Wrongdoing, But The Damage Has Been Done

"The videos, as dishonest as the videos are, have had their intended effect."



Samantha Lachman
Staff Reporter, The Huffington Post



Posted: 10/09/2015 05:36 PM EDT | Edited: 10/10/2015 06:28 PM EDT



SEAN RAYFORD/GETTY IMAGES

Gov. Bobby Jindal pushed to cut off Planned Parenthood even though Louisiana desperately needs its services.

WASHINGTON -- If an organization is accused of a crime but there's no evidence it committed that crime, should the organization still be punished for its imaginary crime? The answer from Republicans is a resounding yes -- at least if the organization is Planned Parenthood.

In July, the Center for Medical Progress began releasing selectively edited videos of Planned Parenthood staff members discussing the health care provider's fetal tissue donation program. Anti-abortion advocates immediately began accusing Planned Parenthood of profiting off the sale of fetal tissue, which would be illegal. Multiple investigations were launched in Congress and in the states. They turned up no evidence that Planned Parenthood was doing anything other than receiving legal reimbursements for the cost of processing the donations.

That doesn't seem to matter to GOP elected officials across the country.

esurance
an Allstate company

You could save on car insurance in minutes.

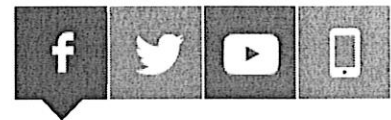
Enter ZIP quote

(Welcome to the modern world.)

Not available in all states.

AdChoices

FOLLOW HUFFPOST



HuffPost Like **5.3m**

Politics Like **1.4m**

HUFFPOST NEWSLETTERS

Get top stories and blog posts emailed to me each day.
Newsletters may offer personalized content or advertisements. [Learn more](#)

SUGGESTED FOR YOU

- 1. [The Highs And Lows Of Trevor Noah's 'Daily Show' Debut](#)



a week ago [live.huffingtonpost.com
The Huffington Post
HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\) ion](http://live.huffingtonpost.com/The-Huffington-Post/HuffingtonPost.com-(AOL)-ion)

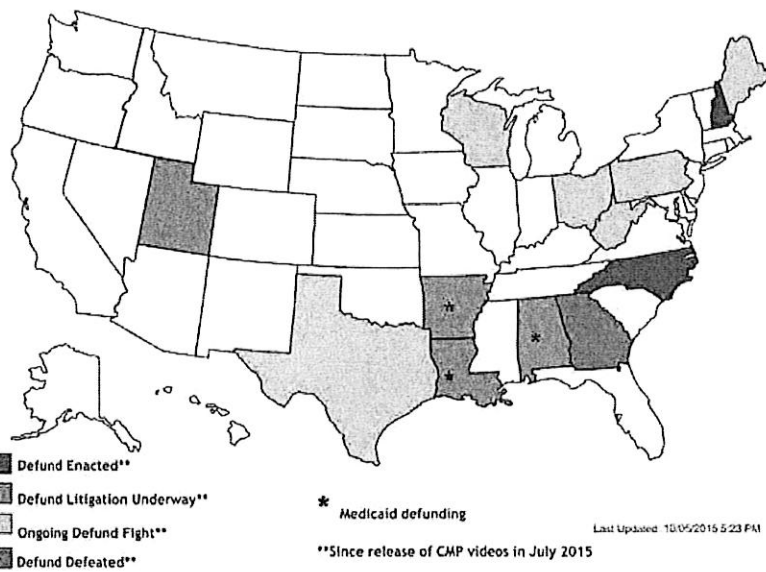
App.398

Rosenbaum, a professor in health law and policy at George Washington University. "They gave everybody the platform to work from that they had lacked up until now."

On the federal level, the government was almost shut down in an effort to slash \$528 million in funding to Planned Parenthood. On the state level, some Republican governors cut the organization out of their Medicaid programs. Several states stopped directing federal Title X funding to the group. Title X pays for cancer screenings, contraception and tests sexually transmitted infections (STIs) for low-income women.

In other states, the legislature is currently debating what bucket of funding it will target. At this point, Planned Parenthood has prevailed in just one state, Georgia, as the map below illustrates.

States Where Planned Parenthood Funding Has Been Attacked



PLANNED PARENTHOOD

Why Those Attacks Are Misguided

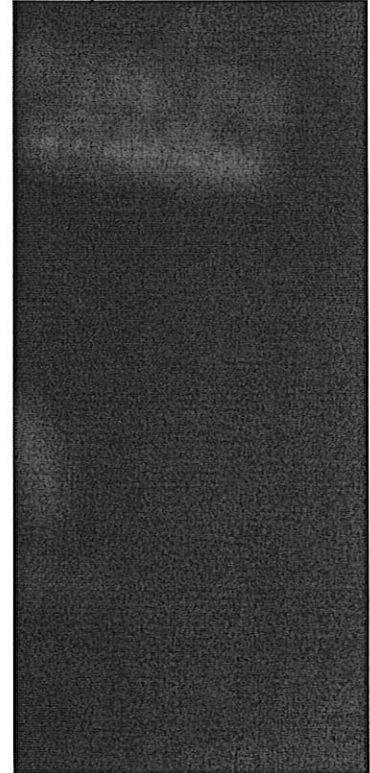
Planned Parenthood says that just two of its affiliates, in California and Washington, currently donate fetal tissue for research. So none of the states that have or are trying to cut off Planned Parenthood actually have clinics involved in the program that is ostensibly in the GOP's crosshairs.

But cuts to Planned Parenthood funding could leave a lot of women seeking health care elsewhere. The Government Accountability Office has reported that less than half of health care providers that see people on Medicaid, as Planned Parenthood does, are taking new patients. And the group serves a disproportionate share of the women aided by the Title X program.

Republicans have suggested that other community health centers can fill in the gaps, but that's unlikely since those groups are already strained providing services for their current patients.

"Planned Parenthood providers overwhelming exist in places where there is a shortage of health care providers," Rosenbaum said. "There's no provider that can move in fast enough to take up the slack here."

- 2. [Why Did Kevin McCarthy Abruptly Drop Out Of The Race For House Speaker?](#)



3 days ago [live.huffingtonpost.com HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#) hillary clinton

- 3. [Guinness World Record Crowns World's Oldest Cat](#)



a month ago [live.huffingtonpost.com The Huffington Post HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#) the pet show

- 4. [Katy Perry Reveals Her REAL Hair Color. And It Ain't Pretty](#)



4 days ago [huffingtonpost.com The Huffington Post AOL.com](#) Suzy Strutner Suzy Strutner katy perry hair

- 5. [Problematic Maxim Korea Cover Depicts Violence Against Women](#)



Republican lawmakers in North Carolina and New Hampshire didn't wait for an investigation to end their contracts with the health care provider.

The three Republican members of New Hampshire's five-member Executive Council declined to renew Planned Parenthood's contract to provide STI testing, contraception and cancer screening to the state's residents.

North Carolina lawmakers inserted language into the state budget saying that no funds "shall be allocated to renewing or extending existing contracts or entering into new contracts for the provision of family planning services, pregnancy prevention activities, or adolescent parenting programs with any provider that performs abortions." That budget cut may force Planned Parenthood to stop running teen pregnancy prevention programs in the state, since those will now rely on private donations. One Republican lawmaker defended the move by suggesting that Planned Parenthood distributes contraceptives that "don't work" to drum up "more business," as the Raleigh News & Observer reported.

These States Are Defending Their Defunding In Court

Planned Parenthood has answered state moves to sever its Medicaid contracts with lawsuits arguing that officials must first prove the group isn't fit to care for patients.

"It's simply unlawful to cut the provider out because it happens to provide a service that Medicaid doesn't pay for," Rosenbaum said.

Nonetheless, after the videos were released, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert (R) directed state agencies to terminate their contracts with Planned Parenthood because he said he was "offended" by the provider's actions. In late September, a federal judge blocked Herbert's move. The judge asked the state's solicitor general whether he found it "troubling" that the governor cut off the group's funding before an investigation into the fetal tissue program had even been completed.

In Arkansas, a judge pointed out that the state had offered no evidence that Planned Parenthood clinics there had engaged in improper or illegal activity when Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) ordered the organization removed from the state's Medicaid program.

Similarly, Planned Parenthood sued Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley (R) over his decision to terminate its Medicaid contract with the state, which directed less than \$5,000 to the provider over the last two years. The judge presiding over that case has suggested that the state give a legitimate reason to terminate the relationship beyond "concerns about the harvesting and sale of fetal tissue."

Though Louisiana has some of the nation's highest rates of gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis and HIV, as the New York Times reported, Gov. Bobby Jindal (R) also moved to cut Planned Parenthood out of the state's Medicaid program. Then, the U.S. Justice Department argued to a judge that Louisiana would be violating federal law by not giving Medicaid patients the right to choose their own health care provider and that Jindal hadn't offered a sufficient reason for terminating the group's Medicaid contract. Louisiana officials changed their tune and said they were canceling the contract because Planned Parenthood had reached a \$4.3 million settlement in Texas over allegations of false billing. Planned Parenthood did not admit guilt in that dispute and is now arguing that the 2013 Texas settlement has no relevance to whether it's fit to provide care in Louisiana.

And The Battle To Defund Rages In These States

Several other states look likely to defund Planned Parenthood, but aren't as far along in the process.

In Ohio, the state House is currently considering legislation to cease funding groups that also

[The Huffington Post](#)
[HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#) free speech

- 6. [An Open Letter To My Future In-Laws Who Won't Be At My Wedding](#)



a month ago [live.huffingtonpost.com](#)
[The Huffington Post](#)
[HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#) gay voices

- 7. [Emily Blunt Told To 'Leave Hollywood' By 'Fox And Friends' Hosts](#)



3 weeks ago [live.huffingtonpost.com](#)
[The Huffington Post](#)
[HuffingtonPost.com \(AOL\)](#)

Billions
in Change

A film about inventions with a purpose.

Billions in Change trailer

WATCH THE FULL FILM

Join the movement [billionsinchange.com](#)

AdChoices

finding Planned Parenthood guilty of any wrongdoing.

Wisconsin is also close to defunding Planned Parenthood. The lower chamber of the state legislature passed a bill in late September preventing the group from receiving Title X funds. The bill now awaits action in the Republican-controlled state Senate.

CARE ABOUT THIS? TAKE ACTION RIGHT HERE



Stand with Planned Parenthood — Sign this petition and spread the truth.

Sign Petition



Change your Facebook and Twitter profile pic to show your support for Planned Parenthood in the face of continued attacks by anti-women's health extremists.

Do It!



Millions - like me! - are standing with #PlannedParenthood VIDEO: youtu.be/sQaa2jO1vWE via @YouTube (cc: @PPAct) | #StandWithPP #SRHR

Tweet



Actions curated in support of better equality and sustainability for our planet. Read terms here

MORE: Planned Parenthood, Planned Parenthood Funding, Planned Parenthood Videos, Planned Parenthood Sting, Medicaid, Title X, Center For Medical Progress , Defund Planned Parenthood, Bobby Jindal

FOLLOW POLITICS

Suggest a correction



GET THE NEWSLETT

address@email.com

Subscribe!

YOU MAY LIKE