

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA)

“Planned Parenthood Federation of America's (PPFA) 2018-2019 annual report released Monday (Jan. 6) showed that the organization performed 345,672 abortion procedures in 2018.”¹

Previous PPFA president Leana Wen identified abortion as the group's core mission in a series of tweets sent out in January 2019.

"Our core mission is providing, protecting and expanding access to abortion and reproductive healthcare," Wen said.²

“More than \$616 million in government reimbursements and grants accounted for 37 percent of PPFA's total funding in 2018. From 2008 to 2018, government funding to PPFA increased by 70 percent.”^{3,4} This, despite all the controversy surrounding Planned Parenthood and the selling of aborted baby parts.

So, Representatives and Senators, pardon my simple-minded logic here, but as you are providing for over 1/3 PPFA's funding, you are directly responsible for at least 115,224 abortions.

Let that sink in.

¹ <http://bpnews.net/54136/planned-parenthood-reports-increased-number-of-abortions>

² <https://twitter.com/DrLeanaWen/status/1082660986513960966>

³ <http://bpnews.net/54136/planned-parenthood-reports-increased-number-of-abortions>

⁴ https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer_public/2e/da/2eda3f50-82aa-4ddb-acce-c2854c4ea80b/2018-2019_annual_report.pdf

But it gets worse — some unclear amount of the annual budget of PPFA is funded through patient fees and/or insurance which pays for some of the abortions. What is the cost of an abortion? According to the Planned Parenthood website, “the cost of an abortion can range anywhere from \$0-950.”⁵

What factors can affect the cost of the abortion? Personal, income, type of Insurance, where you live, what type of abortion you have, and the lateness of the term of your pregnancy are all factors which could affect the costs to the woman.⁶

If we took a relatively low cost of \$200 and multiplied it times the number of reported abortions . . . \$69,000,000 and change. Full disclosure, I have no idea what this number really is but I suspect if Congress demanded to know they could find out.

The PPFA claims that abortions equal only 4% of their services but not just 4% of their budget. That number works only if anything they do is equal to an abortion as far as services go. For instance, a pregnancy test and an abortion are both services and each count as a single service. A test for a sexually transmitted disease is a service, a wellness exam is a service, the treatment of a urinary tract infection is a service.

No one should honestly equate an abortion with a pregnancy test, nonetheless, that is how the procedures are counted.

⁵ <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/teens/ask-experts/how-much-does-an-abortion-cost>

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But relax, since PPFA is committed to women and healthcare, they also refer women for adoption services. How many in the same year that they did 345,672 abortions? They reported 4,279 adoption referrals. So, after meeting with PPFA representatives and/or staff, 98.8% of the women considering abortion verses adoption chose abortion.⁷

What a travesty!

In comparison, in the area I live, there is a Pregnancy Care Center. They offer a lot of health and educational services and referrals to pregnant women who come into their center. 93% of their clients choose to take their pregnancies to term. The women are offered assistance with almost everything you can imagine and some of them ultimately choose to keep their babies and some give them up for adoption.

Why the disparity?

PPFA promotes abortion — it is their stated mission. The Pregnancy Care Center in our community tries to encourage women to have their baby.

Which organization should be receiving government funding?

If an organization like PPFA can receive government tax dollars, so should any organization that is providing adoption services, or pregnancy support — including Christian based organizations. If an organization like PPFA is receiving tax dollars, so should any organization that offers any level or

⁷ https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer_public/2e/da/2eda3f50-82aa-4ddb-acce-c2854c4ea80b/2018-2019_annual_report.pdf

medical support for people regardless whether they provide for or encourage abortion services or not.

Now, to be clear, I do not think this is the solution. I believe that government should get out of the business of funding certain non-governmental groups while excluding others. I do not think non-governmental organizations including non-profit organizations should directly receive government funding.

People who support abortion should step forward and provide 100% of PPFA's budget and get it off of the backs of all taxpayers. Then, this issue would cease to be a political issue.

Abortion laws should be reviewed and updated in light of current medical findings. Is it really acceptable for a baby that survives an attempted abortion procedure to be left to die of malnourishment or dehydration? Can we allow abortions after the point where science can demonstrate that a baby in the womb feels pain? Isn't it cruel to cause such suffering while claiming it is the right of another person to demand such treatment?

As long as this atrocity exists in our country, there can be no serious consideration of working together in a bi-partisan manner.

I call on our Congress and Senate to immediately defund PPFA and to review the current abortion laws and regulations in light of modern medical findings.

Ray Smith