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Extreme Anti-Choice Congress Guts Planned Parenthood Millions of Women Will Lose Primary Health Care

New York - In a 240 to 185 vote on February 18, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to bar Planned Parenthood from all federal funding. Republican Mike Pence of Indiana led this effort against women's healthcare. Millions of women will potentially lose their primary health care, in addition to the men and children who currently benefit from Planned Parenthood's services. The Senate will vote on this bill later this month.

Sonia Ossorio, Executive Director of NOW-NYC and the Service Fund says, "the Senate must swiftly and decisively send a message to women that they won't be a part of any dangerous attacks on women's health care."

Roughly \$363 million went to Planned Parenthood under Title X for services including cervical and breast cancer screenings, STI testing, contraception, and sex education. If passed in the Senate, these funds would be cut completely from Planned Parenthood. This bill comes out of an overwhelmingly-conservative Congress, which aims to eliminate funding to organizations that provide abortion services. Planned Parenthood is already prohibited from using federal dollars for abortion services, which comprise only 3% of their operations.

Ossorio says, "Women are outraged and they won't stand for any more such measures."

The National Organization for Women is the nation's largest organization working to advance women's rights and improve women's lives. The New York City Chapter of NOW, founded in 1966, is the largest chapter in the country with 5,000 members locally and 35,000 statewide. NOW-NYC works to promote women's reproductive rights, secure women's economic empowerment, and end violence and discrimination against women.

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