

Opening Statement

Rep. Gene Green

Health Subcommittee Hearing: “Ending Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Providers Who Violate the Law”

September 17, 2015

Good afternoon.

Unfortunately, instead of using this time to advance legislation that improves our health care system, we are here in response to the aggressive smear campaign against Planned Parenthood based on highly edited videos that misrepresent the organization’s practices.

These two bills are transparent efforts to give politicians power to block women’s access to their doctor of choice, jeopardizing the ability of millions of low-income Medicaid beneficiaries to see the provider they trust for high quality health care.

Federal law has long protected the ability of Medicaid beneficiaries to receive family planning services.

These bills fly in the face of patient choice, and give politicians unchecked power to deny women access to the doctor of their choosing.

If enacted, they would allow for an unprecedented level of involvement by the government in the family planning decisions of low-income women.

This hearing is part of the ongoing assault on not just choice, but on access to quality, preventative health care services for millions of women.

I am deeply disappointed by the willingness of some of my colleagues to shut down the government in response to sensationalized accusations and no evidence of wrong-doing.

Efforts to block access to care and defund Planned Parenthood will do nothing more than prevent individuals who rely on these services from getting the care they need.

More than 90 percent of what Planned Parenthood does is preventive care – including cervical and breast cancer screenings, and family planning services—mostly for women with few resources and incomes below the poverty line.

We should not continue to play politics with women's health. This has real consequences for real people.

Using women's health as political football in order to advance an extreme agenda is nothing new, but this week's efforts are a new low.

We have real challenges that Congress should be spending its time addressing, rather than going after women's health.