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**Statement of Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr., as prepared for delivery
House Energy and Commerce Committee
Subcommittee on Health
Hearing on “Protecting Infants: Ending Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Providers
Who Violate the Law”**

Mr. Chairman, it’s a real shame that we are here today to continue what is nothing more than a Republican assault on women’s rights. I had hoped that our Committee could rise above the fray. That we would not use misleading and unsubstantiated videos by anti-choice extremists to attack Planned Parenthood – an organization who is responsible for providing care to millions of women across the nation.

This concerted effort by Republicans, under the guise of falsified videos, is not about strengthening current law, it’s about restricting access to women’s health care and if Republicans continue down this path, it will lead to a government shutdown.

Make no mistake, Republican policies under consideration here today would roll-back the clock on longstanding provider choice protections that allow a woman to see the doctor that she trusts. Their end goal is to eliminate a women’s constitutional right to choose.

These proposals will have an immediate and chilling effect on access to care. They would give states the unprecedented ability to unilaterally eliminate providers from state Medicaid programs and eliminate providers from all federal health programs wholesale – based purely on unsubstantiated allegations – that means suspicion alone. With the attempted efforts by states like Indiana and Louisiana, this will surely give credence to their actions. This is not the American way – like abortion, due process is a fundamental right.

I cannot stand by and allow this Committee and this Congress to support a witch hunt against Planned Parenthood. And I will not support undue, unconstitutional, government intervention into a woman’s personal decisions with her doctor. Republicans must end this extreme agenda to roll back the clock on women’s rights.

I yield one minutes to Rep. Matsui.

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