



To: Members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly

From: Women's Law Project

Date: January 24, 2022

Re: Opposition to SB 152 (Defunding Women's Health Care)

The Women's Law Project (WLP), a non-profit legal advocacy organization that advocates for expanded access to reproductive health care as part of its mission to advance the rights of women, girls, and LGBTQ+ people in Pennsylvania and beyond, is strongly opposed to Senate Bill 152. This bill purports to be "focused on improving the quality of health care for women," according to its co-sponsorship memo, but the reality is that it will undermine women's access to the care they need. The bill imposes a tiered system of allocating state funds for family planning services that prohibits entities that perform abortions from receiving funding, showing that *improving* the quality of women's health care will not be the outcome of this legislation.

Planned Parenthood not only provides vital abortion care but also essential family planning services across the Commonwealth, reaching communities that often have few resources. This bill would deny these communities access to contraception, STI testing and treatment, and life-saving screenings for cancer.

Research shows, for example, that contraception reduces unplanned pregnancy, reduces pregnancy-related morbidity and mortality, is used to treat many non-pregnancy-related conditions, and reduces the risk of some reproductive cancers.<sup>1</sup> No bill that would deny these important and life-saving benefits to people in our Commonwealth is focused on improving the quality of health care for women.

The Women's Law Project urges the members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly to oppose SB 152.

Contact:

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<sup>1</sup> Megan L. Kavanaugh & Ragnar Anderson, Guttmacher Instit., *Contraception and Beyond: The Health Benefits of Services Provided at Family Planning Centers*, <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/contraception-and-beyond-health-benefits-services-provided-family-planning-centers>.