



Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon

April 1, 2013

Dear Chair Tomei and Members of the House Committee on Human Services and Housing,

Planned Parenthood of Southwestern Oregon is dedicated to building a strong, healthy community by providing essential health services, education and advocacy. Our eight health centers throughout southwestern Oregon serve more than 22,000 patients annually with accessible and affordable quality care, and our sex education programs reach nearly 25,000 Oregonians each year.

PPSO supports HCR 6. This year it is the 40th anniversary of Roe and an important time to affirm a woman's personal medical decision-making and passing HCR 6 sends an important message to the people of Oregon that we trust and value women to make responsible decisions. As we all know, most things in life aren't simple. And that includes abortion.

It's personal. It can be complicated. And for many people, it's not a black-and-white issue.

A majority of Oregonians believe abortion should remain safe and legal. What they want is for a woman to have access to safe and legal abortion, if and when she needs it.

But when it comes to abortion, who decides? Her mayor? Her senator? Her governor?

Women don't turn to politicians for advice about mammograms, prenatal care or cancer treatments. And they shouldn't. Politicians don't belong in a woman's personal medical decisions about her pregnancy either.

When it comes down to it, we just don't know a woman's specific situation. We're not in her shoes.

Ultimately, decisions about whether to choose adoption, end a pregnancy or raise a child must be left to a woman, her family and her faith, with the counsel of her doctor or health care provider.

Planned Parenthood does more than any other agency to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and therefore the need for abortion. Based on the number of contraceptive clients we serve in Oregon, our health care programs actually helped prevent an estimated 7,000 abortions in 2011 alone.

In the United States, abortion is a safe and legal medical procedure. It is important that it stays that way. Please vote yes on House Concurrent Resolution 6.

Thank you. Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Pappas".

Cynthia Pappas

President and CEO