

Submitter: Samantha Doty
On Behalf Of: Stanton Healthcare
Committee: House Committee On Health Care
Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB4127

I am a board-certified Physician Associate licensed in Oregon and Idaho and the Director of Clinical Services at Stanton Healthcare. Stanton Healthcare operates a 37-foot mobile medical unit providing healthcare services in the border town of Ontario. I am here to testify in opposition to HB 4127 on behalf Stanton and on behalf my patients in rural Oregon communities like Ontario.

I urge the committee to reconsider giving funds to Planned Parenthood when there are already so many existing organizations providing high-quality care around the state. The community is NOT reliant upon Planned Parenthood for these services. Life-affirming medical clinics such as Stanton provide many of the same services as PP at no cost. These clinics outnumber Planned Parenthood by more than double and receive no funding from the state of Oregon.

Life-affirming clinics have frequently been labeled as “fake clinics”; however nothing could be further from the truth. Stanton Healthcare is independently accredited by the Accreditation Association of Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC), which includes our mobile medical unit serving in Ontario. AAAHC is an independent accreditation organization that requires the highest standards of care for ambulatory health clinics. That means we are meeting over 550 standards for medical excellency, verified by on-site Nurse Surveyor visits every 3 years. This really demonstrates that we take very seriously the responsibility to our patients and that Best Practices are always our highest priority. Several other life-affirming clinics in Oregon have attained the same accreditation.

Not a single Planned Parenthood in the state of Oregon has AAAHC accreditation. They self-accredit. Our concern is that if your mother or sister or brother walks into a PP, you have no guarantee that their equipment has been evaluated for safety and function, that their protocols are following nationally recognized standards, that their staff has the appropriate qualifications, that they have peer review processes, etc. This ALONE should cause Oregon to not consider giving a penny to such clinic. Oregonians should expect a safe place that is continually in compliance with local, state, and federal requirements. AAAHC accreditation ensures that our patients receive the level of care that they deserve.

I want to highlight the quality services that Stanton Healthcare provides. Our medical services include pregnancy testing, limited OB ultrasounds, STI testing and treatment, well woman exams, cervical cancer screenings, birthing and parenting classes, lactation support, massage therapy, and life coaching- all at NO CHARGE to our clients. Many of our services and supports are also offered through telehealth.

In addition, we provide diapers, wipes, baby clothing, maternity clothing, and other material assistance to anyone in the community. According to Planned Parenthood's website, none of the Planned Parenthoods in Oregon offer any prenatal or postnatal care, more than less any baby/maternity items to help support a pregnancy. When I typed Planned Parenthood into my search Engine this morning, the Planned Parenthood banner was titled "Abortion Center in Oregon". The additional services that they offer which you're considering funding is clearly not their main priority. That should really cause some concern.

Another major concern that we have is that Stanton clinics have witnessed multiple ambulances leaving the shared parking lot of nearby Planned Parenthoods. I can tell you with confidence that there has never been a pregnancy resource center or life-affirming medical clinic that has been the cause of life-threatening injury or death. The same cannot be said of Planned Parenthood.

Once again, I urge you to vote no on HB 4127. Planned Parenthood does NOT need any more taxpayer money. If you really want to help the people Oregon, then give money to centers that provide EXCELLENT care to the people they serve!