

Four replies to the Feb 27, 2011 defense of continued government funding of Planned Parenthood. The editorial was written by Felicia Chase Goodman. Ms. Goodman is the Executive Director of Planned Parenthood of Central Texas and also of Planned Parenthood Waco. The former is a birth control and STD testing clinic. The latter administers surgical abortions and chemical abortions.

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Felicia Chase Goodman's defense of Planned Parenthood, based on quality of life, is a red herring argument. She deceives the public with the notion that only they can provide low-cost or no-cost women's health care.

Her argument that abortion providers are respected medical professionals working in the best interest of women is simply incorrect. Abortion clinics do not have to maintain the high standards of health, safety and professionalism required of hospitals.

Clinic workers commonly prey on fear, pain and confusion to manipulate women into getting abortions. They regularly mislead or deceive women about the nature and development of their babies, which is well-documented in Abby Johnson's book, "Unplanned."

Mike Hoover, McGregor



The recent assault on Planned Parenthood by House Republicans worries me. They seem to be void of facts in their argument. By law, Planned Parenthood cannot receive any federal funds for abortion services but gets federal money to provide family planning services to low-income people. They promote comprehensive sexual education and affordable contraceptives, which in turn reduce the number of abortions.

If funding is cut, the resources that prevent unwanted pregnancies would vanish, and the number of abortions could increase locally and nationwide. That's something pro-lifers and pro-choicers can agree we all don't want.

Ian Larson, Waco



In reply to Felicia Chase Goodman's Sunday column, "A political attack that hurts women," the CEO of Planned Parenthood of Central Texas makes a flawed argument with missing data.

Goodman decries the possible loss of federal funding for Planned Parenthood, writing that, "should this dangerous proposal become law, more than 8,000 Central Texas women would lose access to basic primary and preventive health care."

Does she not realize there are other health care providers for the poor, such as the Family Health Center and the Waco-McLennan County Public Health District?

She writes, "Even the supporters of this extreme legislation do not pretend that this political attack . . . will save a single cent in the budget." This is a strange statement in light of the hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars budgeted annually for Planned Parenthood.

She fails to include that, from 1994 to 2009, Planned Parenthood of Central Texas killed 15,838 unborn babies, according to data compiled from their newsletters.

Tom Harrison, Waco



Bravo to Planned Parenthood of Central Texas and Felicia Chase Goodman for continuing to serve the men and women in our community seeking basic primary and preventive health care. Planned Parenthood provides citizens with contraception choices, HIV testing, STD testing and treatment, annual exams and diagnostic mammogram referrals.

I applaud Planned Parenthood of Central Texas for its extraordinary effort to serve more than 8,000 women and families that rely on the health care options and education available to them through this facility.

Ann Campbell, Waco