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Media Memo: Senator Susan Collins' long history of supporting Planned Parenthood and access to essential health care

(Portland, MAINE) -- As anti-abortion politicians in Washington D.C. seek to "defund" Planned Parenthood and gut programs that provide essential reproductive health care to millions of Americans, Mainers can count on Senator Susan Collins' long record of supporting family planning programs by standing against proposed cuts that would mean catastrophic loss of access to care for [Mainers](#) and all Americans.

As Republicans scramble to cut essential government programs to pay for tax cuts for the ultra rich, budget proposals show that appeasing their anti-abortion backers also remains a priority. The [president](#), [vice president](#), and anti-abortion [members of Congress](#) have been clear in their intent to "defund" Planned Parenthood other reproductive care providers which along with other proposed cuts in a draft budget proposal released this month, would cost the country [\\$1.5 trillion](#).

U.S. Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-L.A.) [announced](#) in April that "defunding" Planned Parenthood was a priority for President Donald Trump's economic agenda. Days later, the Trump administration released an initial [draft budget](#) proposal calling for, among other devastating cuts to health care and safety net programs, eliminating funding for Title X, the nation's only federal program dedicating to providing affordable birth control and other reproductive health care to Americans with low incomes, and cutting hundreds of millions from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicaid Services (CMS).

On May 11, Republicans on the House Energy & Commerce (E&C) Committee [released a draft](#) of their portion of the reconciliation bill, which, among several attacks on rights health care, particularly for vulnerable Americans, includes a provision "defunding" Planned Parenthood from participating in the Medicaid Program.

The administration's initial budget proposal is already facing backlash following a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [report](#) indicating that under the draft proposal, millions of Americans would lose Medicaid coverage and health insurance, more broadly.

What's more, the provision to prohibit Medicaid patients from choosing to seek care at Planned Parenthood is the only provision in the health care portion of this bill that would increase the deficit.

The budget proposal came on the heels of the Trump administration's [announcement](#) in April that it was withholding Title X funding from states across the country, including Maine.

Sen. Collins' record of support for Planned Parenthood, patients' right to choose their own providers, and Medicaid

- In April 2025, Sen. Collins [raised concerns](#) over a recent budget resolution that would likely result in Medicaid cuts, citing how crucial Medicaid is for her constituents.
- In February 2022, Sen. Collins [co-sponsored](#) a bill to codify *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, two U.S. Supreme Court cases that implemented federal protections for abortion.
- In 2019, Sen. Collins [reintroduced a bill](#) to permanently repeal the Global Gag Rule, which Republican presidents implement to prevent international organizations who receive U.S. global health assistance from providing information, referrals, or services for legal abortion or advocating for access to abortion services in their country--even with their own money. Sen. Collins has publicly supported a permanent repeal of the Global Gag Rule several times, including in [2017](#) and [2018](#).
- In 2017, in opposition to Medicaid cuts, Sen. Collins said that it ["made no sense"](#) to eliminate all federal funding for Planned Parenthood, saying, "Millions of women across the country rely on Planned Parenthood for family planning, cancer screening, and basic preventive health care services. **Denying women access to Planned Parenthood not only runs contrary to our goal of letting patients choose the health care provider who best fits their needs, but it also could impede timely access to care.**"

"If Planned Parenthood were defunded, other family planning clinics in Maine, including community health centers, would see a 63 percent increase in their patient load. Some patients would need to drive greater distances to receive care, while others would have to wait longer for an appointment... **This is about interfering with the ability of a woman to choose the health care provider who is right for her. This harmful provision should have no place in legislation that purports to be about restoring patient choices and freedom.**"

- In 2017, regarding a proposal to roll back Affordable Care Act regulations and remove Planned Parenthood from the Title X program, which Collins voted against in the Senate,

she [said](#), **"If you're serious about trying to reduce the number of abortions, the best way to do that is to make family planning more widely available."**

- In 2015, Sen. Collins [opposed](#) a 20-week abortion ban bill in the Senate.

Throughout her career, Sen. Collins has made it clear that she understands how critical Medicaid is to her constituents and all Americans' ability to access essential health care. She knows that cuts to the program will harm Mainers. Sen. Collins has also affirmed the important need Planned Parenthood health centers fill in providing care to Mainers, regardless of ability to pay.

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Planned Parenthood Maine Action Fund is an independent, nonpartisan, not-for-profit membership organization formed as the advocacy and political arm of Planned Parenthood of Northern New England in Maine. PPNNE has four health centers in Maine and sees more than 12,000 patients a year.

