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Will Bill Brady Follow Gov. Christie's Example of Cutting All Family Planning Funding?

Chicago, IL — After eliminating all family planning funding and negatively impacting 40,000 patients in his state, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie today stumps for Bill Brady in campaigning efforts across Illinois. Now the women of Illinois want to know, will Bill Brady cut family planning funding in Illinois just like NJ Governor Christie?

Family planning health care is basic preventive care for women, including lifesaving breast and cervical cancer screenings, birth control and STI testing and treatment. Family planning helps prevent unplanned pregnancies, resulting in considerable savings to the state. In fact, an analysis by the [Guttmacher Institute](#) estimates that investing in family planning saves taxpayers more than \$4 for every \$1 spent.

“Like Governor Christie, Bill Brady is willing to put his own extreme beliefs ahead of those he would be elected to represent when it comes to reproductive health care—and he'd do it at a big cost to taxpayers,” said Carole Brite, President and CEO of Planned Parenthood Illinois Action (PPIA). “His appearance alongside Governor Christie shows just how far Bill Brady would be willing to go if elected and the hypocrisy behind the ‘less government, lower taxes’ pitch.”

Christie's first action as governor was to end all state family planning funding and stop New Jersey from implementing a Medicaid family planning program similar to the Illinois Healthy Women family planning program. As a result, an estimated 40,000 patients will lose access to this critical health care service in New Jersey. With the Governor's action, Planned Parenthood of Southern New Jersey recently closed a health center and 57 additional health care providers will be impacted.

“Health professionals who provide family planning are often the only source of health care services for women and families who have no health insurance coverage,” said Pam Sutherland of PPIA. “Christie is trying to push through his opposition to family planning under the cover of cost cutting. But women and the state are eventually bound to pay the cost.”

During his 17 years in the Illinois General Assembly, Bill Brady amassed a record that completely disregards and denigrates women's health.

“Since entering the General Assembly in 1993, Bill Brady has a 100 percent anti-choice and anti-family planning voting record. His record demonstrates that he is anti-woman, anti-choice. He is downright dangerous for Illinois women.” said Sutherland.

In 2003 Senator Brady co-sponsored legislation that would have allowed insurance providers to offer plans that did not cover Pap smears, mammograms, minimum hospital stays for childbirth, and other essential reproductive health care services.

Senator Brady does not believe that abortion should be legal – even in the case of rape or incest. He has stated that he would use the Governor's office to further an anti-choice agenda by Executive Order.

Senator Brady voted against a bill - which became law in 2003 - that required any private insurance plan that covered prescription drugs to also cover contraceptives.

Three years later, Senator Brady co-sponsored legislation that would have allowed any pharmacy or pharmacist to refuse to fill any legal prescription if they were religiously or morally opposed.

Bill Brady would prohibit access to emergency contraception (EC). EC can prevent pregnancy for up to 72 hours after unprotected intercourse, and is considered the accepted standard of medical care for rape victims by the American Medical Association.

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Planned Parenthood Illinois Action (PPIA) is an independent, nonpartisan, not-for-profit organization formed as the advocacy and political arm of Planned Parenthood of Illinois (PPIIL). For more information, visit www.ppiaction.org.