

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - March 14, 2016

Contact: Leslie Pritchard, Director of Outreach & Advocacy | lpritchard@mfhc.org

## MFHC OPPOSES ELIMINATING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR PLANNED PARENTHOOD

This week Missouri House of Representatives passed legislation that would prevent Medicaid funds from being paid to Planned Parenthoods in the state. In a misguided and misinformed attempt to prohibit state funds from going toward abortions, HB 2011 would prevent health care access - including preventative health screenings, contraceptive dispensing, and family planning services – to the thousands of women, men, and teens who receive care by Missouri's Planned Parenthoods. Missouri Family Health Council supports access to high quality family planning services and Planned Parenthoods are an integral part of Missouri's diverse Title X network.

In 2015, Missouri Planned Parenthood Title X programs provided services to 16,804 unduplicated users, or 35% of the program's overall reach. Through Title X federal funds, Missouri Planned Parenthood affiliates provided 2,887 cervical cancer screenings; 4,048 clinical breast exams; and contraceptive counseling, supplies and related services to 16,804 clients in 2015. Approximately 11,800 unintended pregnancies and 4,000 abortions were prevented in 2015 due to Title X family planning services at these Planned Parenthood affiliates. This year, Missouri Planned Parenthood affiliates estimate serving 21,881 Title X clients.

The following statement is attributed to Katherine Patterson-Paronto, MFHC Interim Executive Director:

"MFHC is committed to supporting Missourians' access to quality reproductive health care. Preventing Medicaid funds from being paid to Planned Parenthoods in the state would cause an immediate reduction in services, impacting the health of thousands of men, women, and teens. We oppose eliminating PPFA from serving Title X clients."

###

## **ABOUT MFHC, INC:**

MFHC supports 19 subrecipients that operate 75 clinic sites throughout Missouri. Missouri's diverse Title X network consists of health departments, federally qualified health centers, hospitals, non-profits, and affiliates of Planned Parenthood. Title X funds are granted to MFHC through the Office of Population Affairs. Please visit www.mfhc.org for more information.