



March 17, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell      The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Senate Majority Leader      Speaker of the House of Representatives  
S-230, U.S. Capitol Building      H-232, U.S. Capitol Building

Washington, DC 20510      Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer      The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Senate Minority Leader      Minority Leader, House of Representatives  
S-221, U.S. Capitol Building      H- 204, U.S. Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510      Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell, Speaker Ryan, Leader Schumer and Leader Pelosi:

The individuals listed on this letter are just a small fraction of the thousands who are affected by cervical cancer every year. We know firsthand that easily accessible, affordable cervical cancer screening is imperative. It saves lives. We are writing today to urge you to ensure that Planned Parenthood continues to receive public health funds. Why? Because it's an important part of the cervical cancer prevention safety net.

We ARE survivors...life is never ever the same after you hear the "C" word. Even if the cancer is gone, the lasting side effects of treatment can be even worse. Some of us will spend the rest of our lives in and out of hospitals having multiple surgeries just to try to get back to a somewhat normal existence.

We ARE friends and family members... cancer does not just affect the people who have it; it affects our spouses, children, parents, siblings, friends, co-workers and countless other relationships.

We ARE in treatment for cervical cancer... we are spending days in the hospital for procedures, months at home recovering, hours at the doctor's office, and we are waiting for the phone to ring with test results. And we are hoping that we will beat this disease.

Our lives have been permanently changed. This year, more than 12,000 women in the U.S. will get cervical cancer; 4,000 of them will die. Planned Parenthood's 650 health centers annually provide more than 270,000 Pap Tests and 24,000 HPV vaccinations – protecting women against the HPV types that cause 90 percent of cervical cancers. We need more, not less access to screening – especially for low income and vulnerable women. With screening and vaccines, we can prevent most cervical cancer.