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INVESTIGATIVE

Unearthed court documents show Planned Parenthood considers all abortions ‘medically necessary’

By [Carole Novielli](#) | June 8, 2017 , 04:32pm



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Under the federal Hyde Amendment, abortions which are considered “medically necessary” qualify for reimbursement. As the Senate debates defunding Planned Parenthood, information has resurfaced documenting how Planned Parenthood dishonestly classifies *all* abortions as “medically necessary.”

Planned Parenthood and its supporters often [claim](#) that the majority of the federal tax dollars they receive are mere “[reimbursements](#),” but these “reimbursements” are partially funded by the federal government and by the states, 17 of which allow tax

dollars to fund abortions in some capacity. A new video released by Live Action explains the concept of fungibility, and why claiming that taxpayer dollars don't fund abortion just isn't accurate:

Planned Parenthood bases its false claim in part on the federal Hyde Amendment, which, as Live Action News has [previously](#) pointed out, prevents federal (not state) dollars from funding *most* abortions through Medicaid, but holds an exception to allow funding in cases involving rape, incest, and life of the mother.



PP on Hyde Amendment

[Expenditure](#) reports [published](#) by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) reveal that despite the federal abortion funding prohibition, in 2015, \$500,659 taxpayer dollars were allocated for abortions under Medicaid assistance programs. Of that total, \$327,341 was paid from the federal coffers, and \$173,318 was paid by the states where the abortions were committed.

Medicaid Financial Management Report - Net Services

FY 2015

National Totals

National

Medical Assistance Program						
Service Category	Total Computable	Federal Share	Federal Share Medicaid	Federal Share ARRA	Federal Share BIPP	State Share
Laboratory/Radiological	1,506,189,121	1,017,463,535	1,017,470,007	(6,472)	0	488,725,586
Home Health Services	4,000,392,653	2,325,355,220	2,274,607,074	2,346,863	48,401,283	1,675,037,433
Sterilizations	89,517,247	71,595,066	71,595,066	0	0	17,922,181
Abortions	500,659	327,341	327,341	0	0	173,318
EPSDT Screening	1,130,265,911	702,641,161	702,642,616	(1,455)	0	427,624,750
Rural Health	1,104,112,715	721,973,398	722,179,265	(205,867)	0	382,139,317
Medicare - Part A	3,123,075,385	1,692,643,623	1,692,643,623	0	0	1,430,431,762
Medicare - Part B	10,596,078,871	6,130,077,556	6,130,077,556	0	0	4,466,001,315
120% - 134% Of Poverty	750,434,507	750,434,507	750,434,507	0	0	0
Coinsurance	964,276,592	573,486,990	573,506,859	(19,869)	0	390,789,602
Medicaid - MCO	219,578,444,060	145,604,592,792	145,403,595,988	1,248,963	199,747,841	73,973,851,268

Medicaid: \$500K for abortions, 2015

The prior year was no better.

The net national total of Medicaid program assistance [expenditures](#) for 2014 showed that taxpayers spent \$1,204,949 on abortions, with \$604,897 picked up federally and \$600,052 picked up by taxpayers within the states.

Medicaid Financial Management Report - Net Services						
FY 2014						
National Totals						
National						
Medical Assistance Program						
Service Category	Total Computable	Federal Share	Federal Share Medicaid	Federal Share ARRA	Federal Share BIPP	State Share
Other Practitioners Services - Sup. Payments	15,142,425	7,857,840	7,862,009	(4,169)	0	7,284,585
Clinic Services	5,359,779,184	3,330,274,504	3,347,067,925	(16,793,421)	0	2,029,504,680
Laboratory/Radiological	1,660,876,733	1,064,680,202	1,064,691,325	(11,123)	0	596,196,531
Home Health Services	3,736,872,946	2,164,278,040	2,121,252,613	(3,055,887)	46,081,314	1,572,594,906
Sterilizations	93,390,208	75,337,271	75,362,217	(24,946)	0	18,052,937
Abortions	1,204,949	604,897	604,897	0	0	600,052
EPSDT Screening	1,075,913,473	670,971,764	670,980,792	(9,028)	0	404,941,709
Rural Health	881,137,238	534,677,274	534,760,282	(83,008)	0	346,459,964
Medicare - Part A	3,034,690,125	1,645,267,739	1,645,267,739	0	0	1,389,422,386
Medicare - Part B	10,243,967,542	5,929,160,583	5,929,160,583	0	0	4,314,806,959
120% - 134% Of Poverty	696,905,184	696,905,184	696,905,184	0	0	0
Coinsurance	1,068,379,227	631,353,097	631,393,011	(39,914)	0	437,026,130
Medicaid - MCO	165,095,346,873	101,552,979,552	101,385,390,005	(1,423,289)	169,012,836	63,542,367,321
Medicaid MCO - Evaluation and Management	3,828,239,144	3,846,795,488	3,846,795,488	0	0	(18,556,344)

Taxpayers contributed over a million dollars for abortions in 2014.

In a [previous post](#), I detailed how Title X family planning federal dollars given to Planned Parenthood funded the same facilities and staff that Planned Parenthood used to perform abortions.

Title X [requirements](#) allow providers like Planned Parenthood to refer for abortions — however, the Title X provider is not allowed to schedule the abortion or provide additional assistance to the woman *unless the abortion is “medically indicated”*:

Where a referral to another provider who might perform an abortion is medically indicated because of the patient’s condition or the condition of the fetus (such as where the woman’s life would be endangered), such a

referral by a Title X project is not prohibited by section 1008 and is required by 42 CFR 59.5(b)(1). The limitations on referrals do not apply in cases in which a referral is made for medical indications.

“Medically indicated” is another term for “medically necessary.” For most of us, this means in dire circumstances — and according to the language of the federal Medicaid funding standard defined in the Hyde Amendment, this would seem to hold true:

(1) if the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest; or

(2) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness, including a life endangering physical condition caused by or arising from the pregnancy itself, that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.

However, according to some recently unearthed testimony from a 2015 [court case](#), Planned Parenthood’s definition is much more broad. When the state of Alaska’s Department of Health and Social Services drafted a regulation redefining *medical necessity* to match the federal Medicaid funding standard, Planned Parenthood sued. The organization turned to Judge Sen Tan, who issued an order claiming that *psychological reasons* should be included under “medical necessity”:

[T]he terms medically necessary abortions or therapeutic abortions are used interchangeably to refer to those abortions certified by a physician as necessary to prevent the death or disability of the woman, or to ameliorate a condition harmful to the woman’s physical or psychological health, as determined by the treating

physician performing the abortion services in his or her professional judgment.

In response to Judge Tan’s order, the State argued:

Judge Tan’s standard is so broad and nebulous that it permits a doctor to consider factors it believes should be irrelevant to medical decision-making.

These include social and economic considerations.

In 2015, Superior Court Judge John Suddock upheld the order, essentially forcing taxpayers in the State of Alaska to fund abortion on demand.

Judge Suddock’s [order](#) is eye opening, because in addition to its complete overreach, it reveals the mindset of Planned Parenthood (which currently controls over 35 percent of the abortion market share in the U.S.). It also reveals that when the abortion corporation tells Congress, the media, and the public that tax dollars don’t pay for abortions, its representatives know they are being deceptive.



[Court testimony](#) from Planned Parenthood abortionists in Alaska reveals that they see *every abortion* as medically necessary.

According to the document, Planned Parenthood abortionist **Eric Lutzman** said Planned Parenthood does not log its reasons as to why an abortion might be medically indicated. The document also notes that the contract abortionist only takes “from two to ten minutes to counsel with patients to determine if an abortion is medically

indicated.” In addition, it was the standard practice of this Planned Parenthood abortionist to *always* conclude that an abortion is medically necessary. The document summarizes **Latzman’s testimony**:

In other words, an abortion is medically indicated if it will ameliorate a condition harmful to the physical or psychological health of the patient in the professional judgment of the treating physician...

He has never concluded that an abortion is other than medically indicated when a woman wishes to terminate her pregnancy.

The testimony of a second Planned Parenthood abortionist, **Dr. Jan Whitefield**, was also reviewed in the document. Whitefield told the court that Medicaid patients make up a large portion of his abortion practice — about one-third. According to the document, Whitefield felt that the cost of delivering a baby to term was a “very substantial amount of money for women of the Medicaid population.”

And, like his colleague, abortionist **Whitefield** has “never found that an abortion is other than medically indicated,” according to the document.

His definition of medically indicated is a practical one: if a patient has a problem and an abortion will help resolve the problem, the abortion is medically indicated.

The State “proved at trial that Planned Parenthood physicians uniformly certify a Medicaid abortion as medically necessary.”

Statistics [published](#) by the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services Bureau of Vital Statistics show that in 2015, a total of 1,334 induced terminations were reported to the state. 32.8 percent of the women who obtained abortions that year reported that

Medicaid was the source of payment, which means taxpayers footed the bill for 438 abortions in Alaska in 2015. In 2016, abortions dropped in the state by 5.5 percent (1,260 abortions). However, despite this drop, the percentage of those abortions that were taxpayer funded [increased](#) to 44.1 percent of women (556 abortions).

2016 Alaska Induced Termination of Pregnancy Statistics

Table 18: Number of Induced Terminations by Method of Payment and Age: Alaska Occurrence, 2016

Payment Type	<15	15-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	Not Stated	Total
Cash	1	22	39	164	128	110	49	22	2	0	537
Insurance	0	3	4	24	31	15	17	3	0	0	97
Medicaid	3	28	45	155	175	97	42	11	0	0	556
Multiple Payment Sources	0	3	3	22	20	7	10	3	0	0	68
Other/Not Stated	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Total	4	56	91	366	354	229	118	39	2	0	1,259

According to the Alaska Induced Termination of Pregnancy Statistics reports, which includes the total number of abortions covered by Medicaid, taxpayers paid \$135,637 for abortions in [2015](#) and \$153,208 in [2016](#).



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Planned Parenthood president tweets to repeal Hyde

Planned Parenthood, which currently ends the lives of about 900 preborn children a day, has made it clear that it supports state and federal taxpayer dollars for abortions, and works to challenge any and all abortion restrictions. As the Senate picks up the defunding debate, it would be wise for legislators to [remember that the American people](#) want [the opposite](#) of what Planned Parenthood wants.

