

TOWN HALL: Town Hall: Opioids: A National Crisis

# Planned Parenthood gives San Antonio its third abortion facility

by Jim Lefko  
Friday, February 15th 2019



San Antonio now has three abortion facilities after Planned Parenthood added abortion services to its San Pedro location. (SBG photo)

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SAN ANTONIO - The closing of a Southside abortion clinic in December had dropped the number of abortion providers in San Antonio to two. But a newly expanded downtown area clinic has given the city a third facility .

Planned Parenthood has started performing abortions at its San Pedro clinic. It also provides abortion services at its Medical Center facility, where it performed over 1,400 procedures last year.

"Seventy five percent of the abortion care that we provide is going to be medication abortion, which is the abortion pill," said Mara Posada, director of public affairs at Planned Parenthood South Texas.

San Antonio's third abortion provider is Alamo Women's Protective Services, which is also located in the Medical Center.

Planned Parenthood is excited about more than doubling the size of its downtown facility along with giving women in the central part of the city a better geographic option..

"We wanted to make abortion available and accessible to a place in the city where we didn't have a provider," Posada said. " That is our No. 1 goal, making abortion care, which is a safe and legal medical procedure, available to women who need it."

There are not currently plans to add abortions to the other San Antonio Planned Parenthood facilities. But that could change in the future.

"Any time we are able to make abortion care more accessible, we will try to do that, Posada said.



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*Mara Posada is director of public affairs at Planned Parenthood South Texas (SBG photo)*

Texas had 44 abortion facilities in 2014. Five years later, that number stands at 20 in the nation's second most populous state.

Texas legislators have introduced more than a dozen bills in the current session that would further erode abortion rights. One bill would forbid Texas cities from contracting with Planned Parenthood.

"There is already a state law that prohibits Planned Parenthood and Planned Parenthood affiliates from contracting or having a relationship with the state of Texas. What they are trying to do now is to interfere with local governments' ability to partner with Planned Parenthood on health care and education services," Posada said.

"We don't believe that politicians in Austin should determine whether local governments get to partner with Planned Parenthood. We think that's a decision that should be made with local communities."

Whole Women's Health cited increased regulations as a primary **reason for the demise** of its facility two months ago.

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Pedro location, which has 11 rooms, treated over 2,700

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Exam room at Planned Parenthood San Pedro, where abortion services began last week. (SBG Photo)

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