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## **Statement From BPCLC Regarding Assemblymember Katz's Legislative Attack on Planned Parenthood & Other Reproductive Health Care Providers**

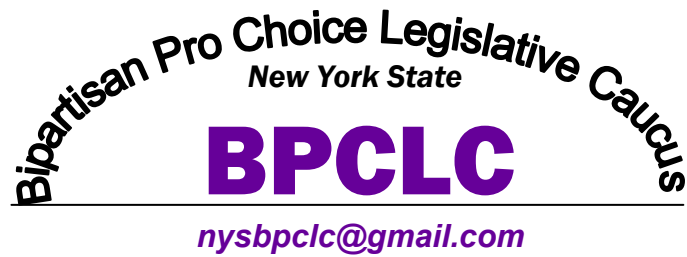
Last week Assemblymember Steve Katz (R-Yorktown) launched an assault against women's reproductive health by introducing legislation that would strip State funding from Planned Parenthood affiliates in New York, and any reproductive health care provider that performs abortions. As seen at the Federal level, and now in New York State, women's reproductive health is facing a resurgence of dangerous attacks through the attempted denial of funding. A woman's right to choice is no longer something we can take for granted. Here in New York, members of the Bipartisan Pro Choice Legislative Caucus want to make it clear that such threats will not be tolerated in New York.

Throughout New York, over 200,000 individuals rely on Planned Parenthood for reproductive health services ranging from sonograms to cervical screenings to family planning. While Assemblymember Katz has chosen to attack Planned Parenthood on the basis of their abortion services, he has decided to ignore the many other life saving practices that Planned Parenthood offers. Over 70,000 women rely on Planned Parenthood for cervical cancer screenings each year. Evidently, these women were not considered when this legislation was drafted.

At the Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic, which serves parts of Assemblymember Katz's 99<sup>th</sup> Assembly district, 12 health centers provide services to over 35,000 thousand people, most of whom are women facing extreme levels of poverty. Without Planned Parenthood, thousands of women in Katz's own district will be forced to make life threatening decisions and face unnecessary obstacles in accessing needed reproductive services because they do not have the financial means necessary to receive the medical attention they need.

Whether this blatant disregard for women's health is rooted in political pandering or simply a misunderstanding of Planned Parenthood's scope of work, the BPCLC hopes that Assemblymember Katz will realize the error of his actions and withdraw this damaging legislation immediately.

The Bipartisan Pro Choice Legislative Caucus stands firmly behind Planned Parenthood and will fight, on behalf of all the women of New York, for its continued ability to serve the women and families of New York State.



## **BPCLC Members**

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