

WASHINGTON D.C. (September 27, 2011) – Today, Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill.) released the following statement in response to a just released letter written by Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-FL), Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce’s Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, that called for an extensive, burdensome investigation of Planned Parenthood Federation of America and 83 of its affiliates despite regular state and federal audits that have shown no evidence of misuse of funds.

“With the recent announcement of their needless and politically motivated investigation of Planned Parenthood Federation of America, House Republicans continue to make their extreme agenda clear: to undermine women’s access to reproductive health care and attack the health providers they rely on in their communities.

Instead of attacking unemployment, Republicans are waging a war against women. Earlier this year, House Republicans threatened to shut down the federal government over funding for Planned Parenthood. This investigation continues the Republican assault on Planned Parenthood, an organization that plays a critical role in our nation’s health care system.

Planned Parenthood serves over 3 million Americans every year. More than 90 percent of the care Planned Parenthood health centers offer is preventive. Planned Parenthood provides life-saving cancer screenings, routine gynecological examinations, contraceptive services, immunizations, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

This is not about federal funding of abortion. This is about cutting off women’s access to affordable, quality care in an effort to score political points. Now is the time to be working on the issues that are most important to Americans – creating jobs and improving the economy.”

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