Planned Parenthood in Peril

American growth is dwindling. The CDC recently published its findings that our present birthrate stands at 1.6 children per woman, an all-time low. We need to be at 2.1 children per woman to have a steady population replacement rate, and there is no indication that our birthrate will increase any time soon. It's not like we don't have the room. On recent road trips, whether it be in Texas, Colorado, here in Missouri, or even on the East Coast, I noted the scenery, and, by default, the stretches of wide-open land. This is in stark contrast to my recent travels overseas in which high-rise apartment buildings dominated the landscape.

Yet this is where we are in America. America. Notice the tiny word in the middle. Me. I thought about how the American celebration of self and rabid championing of personal autonomy may be pushing aside core values that have now been deemed passé—like family. Women are waiting longer to get married and have children, if they have them at all. Many who do get pregnant choose career or other life goals over having their child, while many others are pressured by someone else's fear or selfishness to abort the child. Coercion is real and rampant in unplanned-pregnancy America. So abortion is not only tragic for children and harmful to woman. It endangers our country, as well.

Fortunately, we are seeing a positive shift take place—the closing of abortion clinics (most notably Planned Parenthood) across the country. In this case, thankfully, legality may determine "rights," but it does not guarantee access.

- Kate Wells of VPM (5/16/25) described it as a growing trend: *At least 17 clinics closed last year in states where abortion remains legal, and another 17 have closed in just the first five months of this year.* Even in "abortion destination" states such as Illinois and Michigan. Experts cite financial challenges, not future legal bans, as the reason for closures, but some abortion-rights supporters question the industry leaders' priorities. For instance, PP of Michigan did not cut executive pay even when forced to reduce staff and services. (Which would lead the more cynical among us to double down on the notion that abortion "rights" are less about helping women and more about lining pockets.)
- Geoff Mulvihill of the Associated Press (6/18/25) reported *105 clinic closings since the Dobbs ruling*, as tallied by I Need an A*, an abortion information website. (*I find the covert use of "A" for "Abortion" interesting. If abortion is such a normal, good thing, why hide it?) Although 40 of these closures were in states with total or near total bans, 65 were in other states. Unsurprisingly, 34 new clinics opened in abortion-friendly states to fill some of the void.
- Most recently, Tyler Arnold of the Catholic News Agency (7/25/25) wrote that over 2 dozen Planned Parenthood facilities have shut down amid federal funding losses. On July 4, the "Big Beautiful Bill" put

a freeze on Medicaid and Medicare reimbursements for Planned Parenthood, which accounted for **40%** of its total revenue for July 2023-June 2024. LifeNews reported (7/29/25) that 33 Planned Parent Parenthood facilities across 11 states have closed their doors in 2025.

- 6 in California
- 4 in Illinois
- 1 in Indiana
- 4 in Iowa
- 4 in Michigan
- 4 in Minnesota
- 1 in New York (flagship facility)
- 3 in Ohio
- 3 in Texas (including the world's largest facility in Houston)
- 2 in Utah
- 1 in Vermont

According to Michael New of the Charlotte Lozier Institute, "Even those facilities that do not perform abortions still do abortion referrals. Furthermore, when a Planned Parenthood closes, that means that there are fewer people who work for the abortion industry. Finally, Planned Parenthood's contraception and sex education programs create a more promiscuous culture that result in more abortion."

If stipulations in the "Big, Beautiful Bill" are upheld, Planned Parenthood announced that up to 200 facilities were in danger of closing. However, nothing is ever that easy. After placing a temporary restraining order on the defunding of Planned Parenthood, then ordering a preliminary injunction, Obama-appointed Judge Indira Talwani permanently blocked the provision in the "Big, Beautiful Bill" that defunds providers of elected abortion that received more than $800,000 in federal funding in 2023. (How one judge can wield more power than the President and Congress is a mystery.)

I could be gracious and global and say "adieu" or "adios" to Planned Parenthood, but I think I'll go with "good-bye and good riddance."

Partnering with You for Life,
Linda Verhulst, MRL-WR