

# Komen vs. Planned Parenthood

by Shirley Townsend  
Voice Features Editor

Many have supported breast cancer awareness programs for years, but the gap between women and healthcare choices continues to grow. When will it end?

Last week, the Susan G. Komen foundation announced it would cease funding to Planned Parenthood for breast-health services because of a congressional investigation lead by Rep. Cliff Stearns (R-Fla) into Planned Parenthood's use of federal money to fund abortion, according to The Washington Post.

After the Komen foundation's announcement media reports documented that many people were stunned and extremely upset. Public message boards, such as Twitter and Facebook were the main sources of people arguing both for and against the decision. Disappointed protestors were immediately active in the streets.

Komen foundation officials were deluged with negative e-mail and Facebook posts, accusing it of knuckling under pressure from anti-abortion groups, according to Today Health of MSNBC.com.

Several local organizations affiliated with

the Komen foundation were openly upset, including all seven in California. In Washington, D.C., Sen. Patty Murray and 24 of her colleagues signed a letter asking Komen to reconsider its decision to cut funding for Planned Parenthood.

Planned Parenthood is the nation's leading sexual and reproductive health care provider, according to Plannedparenthood.com. However, the controversy surrounding the organization's support for abortions was at the heart of many arguments related to the Komen foundation's recent announcement.

"It would be tragic if any woman — let alone thousands of women — lost access to these potentially lifesaving screenings because of a politically motivated attack," according to excerpts from a letter written by several U.S. senators to Komen foundation officials published on Today's Health at MSNBC.com.

After only three days of public backlash to the Komen foundation announcement, officials for the organization reversed its decision to cut funding to Planned Parenthood for breast-health services.

"We will continue to fund existing grants, including those of Planned Parenthood, and preserve their eligibility to apply for future

grants," said Nancy G. Brinker, the agency's ambassador, in a statement to MSNBC.com. "We want to apologize to the American public for recent decisions that cast doubt upon our commitment to our mission of saving women's lives," She added.

Although many saw the reversal as a victory, others were disappointed with the Komen foundation's failure to stand strong against media criticism, according to The Los Angeles Times.

"I am deeply disappointed in the sudden reversal by the Komen Foundation of their original pledge to cut ties with Planned Parenthood — the nation's largest abortion provider," said Rep. Renee Ellmers R-NC, according to The HuffingtonPost.com. "Their original stance to stop funding pending an important congressional investigation was an act of courage and prudence, making their sudden reversal today appear hollow and weak."

Many Fayetteville State University stu-



dents helped support Breast Cancer last semester. During the month of October many organizations and students participated in Breast Cancer Awareness Day. Another breast cancer awareness event is scheduled for Feb. 18 at 5 p.m., a Play4Kay basketball game against Shaw University.

"I think [Susan G. Komen foundation] should continue to team up with health care programs because I believe that without healthcare doctors, wouldn't be able to give those who really need the medication in order to treat and diagnose those who can't afford it," said Derrick Bagley, FSU senior. "The fact that Planned Parenthood supports abortions does not change my outlook on the situation."

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\$618,900 to increase lifespan by 24 years, Cornell researcher Bruce R. Schackmen, told CBS News.com.

However, there is no price to the emotional stress and damage a STD can do to your body and your life. The right decisions can definitely help save your life and your wallet so be smart before you start.

### RAPID ORAL HIV TESTING CONTACTS:

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