

*The Board of Supervisors of  
Contra Costa County, California*

**In the matter of:**

**Resolution No. 2016/597**

**Commemorating 100 years of health care services provided by Planned Parenthood**

**Whereas**, on October 16, 1916, Margaret Sanger, her sister Ethel Byrne, and their activist friend Fania Mindell opened the first birth control clinic in the United States in Brooklyn, New York, a groundbreaking and revolutionary act for women at that time; and

**Whereas**, their clinic was founded on the idea that women should have the information and care they need to live strong, healthy lives and fulfill their dreams; and

**Whereas**, in 1922, Margaret Sanger incorporated the American Birth Control League and in 1923 opened the first legal birth control center in the United States, the Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau, two organizations that would later merge to become Planned Parenthood Federation of America; and

**Whereas**, leading up to 1916, the two most common causes of death for women of childbearing age in the United States were tuberculosis and complications from pregnancy and childbirth; and

**Whereas**, over the past 100 years, gains in access to birth control, safe and legal abortion, and other reproductive health services have improved and transformed the lives of women, men, and young people in the United States and around the world; and

**Whereas**, for the past century, Planned Parenthood has helped lead massive changes in health care and civil rights and has empowered millions of adults and young people worldwide to make informed health decisions, transforming the way they live, love, learn, and work; and

**Whereas**, Planned Parenthood has been at the forefront of fights for social change, including when the executive director of Planned Parenthood League of Connecticut challenged a law preventing the distribution of birth control, leading to the landmark 1964 Supreme Court ruling in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, 379 U.S. 926, which finally allowed married women across the country to have legal access to birth control; and

**Whereas**, Planned Parenthood has continued to fight so that access to legal birth control could be a reality for *all* women, regardless of their marital status, economic status, race, ethnicity, or sexual orientation; and

**Whereas**, Planned Parenthood health care providers and staff have played important roles in increasing access to safe and legal abortion, and have successfully advocated for measures that increase access to birth control, including the Affordable Care Act requirement that private insurance plans provide coverage for birth control with no-out-of-pocket costs; and

**Whereas**, many leaders, including those in the domestic and global reproductive health, rights, and justice communities, have worked alongside Planned Parenthood in accomplishing these achievements and have been critical in pushing the work forward; and

**Whereas**, the expanded availability of birth control has been widely recognized as providing one of the biggest economic advancements for women in history; and

**Whereas**, changes in women's access to reproductive health care have led to cultural shifts: in the United States, women are now nearly half the workforce, the sole or primary breadwinners in 40 percent of homes, and more than half of the college students; and

**Whereas**, from the single Brooklyn clinic in 1916, Planned Parenthood has grown to approximately 650 Health Centers across the United States, with partners in a dozen countries in Africa and Latin America; and

**Whereas**, today Planned Parenthood proudly provides high-quality, affordable health care, with 90 percent of services provided being preventive health care for adults and young people; and

**Whereas**, Planned Parenthood is the largest provider of sex education in the United States; and

**Whereas**, an estimated 1 in 5 women in the United States have been to a Planned Parenthood Health Center for care at some point in their lives and, for many people, a Planned Parenthood Health Center may be the only place they can turn to for health care; and

**Whereas**, in a single year, Planned Parenthood Health Centers provide sexual and reproductive health care, education, information, and outreach to 2,500,000 people in the United States and almost 2,000,000 adults and young people globally through its global programs and partnerships, and over 72,000,000 people visit Planned Parenthood’s website; and

**Whereas**, in the past 10 years, Planned Parenthood has nearly doubled services for male patients and expanded services for LGBTQIA communities; and

**Whereas**, Planned Parenthood Northern California provided reproductive health care services to more than 100,000 clients, most of whom have no access to any other medical provider, over the course of 200,000 health care visits at 23 locations across Northern California from 2015 to 2016; and

**Whereas**, Planned Parenthood Northern California’s trusted community services and education staff provided compassionate care to nearly 55,000 clients; and

**Whereas**, Planned Parenthood Northern California’s 40,000 passionate supporters count on our advocacy to protect and expand sexual and reproductive rights, and to connect with them on reproductive justice; and

**Whereas**, Planned Parenthood Northern California began offering high-quality health services in Contra Costa County in the 1960’s with just one health center in Walnut Creek; and

**Whereas**, Planned Parenthood Northern California today operates eight health centers in Contra Costa County, some of them providing prenatal services and primary limited care, serving over 41,100 unduplicated clients each year; and

**Whereas**, Planned Parenthood Northern California provided 58,791 tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, to Contra Costa County residents from 2015 to 2016; and

**Whereas**, Planned Parenthood Northern California’s education and outreach programs deliver accurate information, sexuality and family planning education to 3,400 students and community members in Contra Costa County through educational workshops and community outreach activities each year; and

**Whereas**, Planned Parenthood’s commitment to offer care and resources has grown over the past century and is stronger than ever as it enters into its second century; now, therefore, be it

the County of Contra Costa Board of Supervisors (1) supports the wide-ranging preventive services that Planned Parenthood doctors, nurses, and staff provide every day to people across the United States and in Contra Costa County; (2) recognizes that Planned Parenthood is a safety-net provider that reaches medically underserved people who are critically in need of compassionate care; (3) declares that Planned Parenthood should not be defunded, attacked, or discriminated against for providing safe, legal abortion; and (4) affirms that Planned Parenthood remains an essential thread in the fabric of society, and it will be key in the next century to assisting millions of women, men, and young people in accessing the health care they need and deserve, no matter who they are or where they live.

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**CANDACE ANDERSEN**

Chair,  
District II Supervisor

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**JOHN GIOIA**  
District I Supervisor

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**MARY N. PIEPHO**  
District III Supervisor

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**KAREN MITCHOFF**  
District IV Supervisor

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**FEDERAL D. GLOVER**  
District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: October 25, 2016

David J. Twa,

By: \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy