

Press Release
For Immediate Release
Florida National Organization for Women

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Contact: Jessica McCaffrey, FLNOW President
1-800-299-1710
www.FLNOW.org
Email: president@flnow.org

Florida NOW is Outraged that Women Pay the Price.

This week, Floridian women received a double whammy. First, the Medicaid Family Planning State Option was removed from the economic stimulus package. This option would have allowed Florida to use Medicaid funds to extend family planning services to more low-income women. Then Governor Crist vetoed a proposal by the Legislature to cut \$574,728 from the state budget to ineffective crisis pregnancy centers (CPCs) that do nothing to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies and that often give inaccurate medical information and put women at risk.

Especially in these difficult financial times, women need affordable family planning services. If Florida had used the money to fund birth control instead of CPCs, more than 100, 000 women could have received accurate and sound birth control.

For several years, Florida NOW has called for an immediate halt of state money to CPCs. Not only do these so-called "clinics" have a history of misleading and intimidating women, they utilize taxpayer money that could be used to provide legitimate family planning services to women in need.

"It's outrageous that the Governor would choose to continue funding crisis pregnancy centers while cutting vital services" said Florida NOW president, Jessica McCaffrey. "A better use of these funds would be for family planning services. Not only do women need these services, but according to government studies, every \$1 spent on family planning saves \$4 in prenatal care and childbirth expenses for unintended pregnancies. Family planning is a smart investment in our state".