



Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund
A CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

November 12, 2017

Matthew Henshaw, Director Elementary Curriculum, Spokane Public Schools
Adam Swinyard, Chief Academic Officer, Spokane Public Schools
Spokane School Board Administrators¹

Dear Spokane Public Schools Decision Makers,

The Smith-Barbieri Progressive Fund (the Fund) is a 501c3 charitable foundation² based in Spokane with the primary mission of reducing poverty and ensuring vulnerable citizens in the Inland Northwest have access to tools and resources to achieve sustainable well-being. Crucial to the primary care of all people, especially poor and low-income persons, is access to all aspects of responsible family planning. This includes medically accurate, age-appropriate, comprehensive and inclusive sexual health curriculum.

Learning that Spokane Public Schools will not implement this type of curriculum³ is a blow to our community's future and a waste of precious time, preventing our most vulnerable residents' resources that will help ensure their future health and success. After months of overwhelming public comment in support of the Get Real's sexual health curriculum which has proven to empower youth to lead safe and healthy lives, you chose to succumb to the pressure of a few uninformed, regressive and ideologically opposed individuals who will forever disagree with advancements in state standards for sex education. This pressure included threats to not support an upcoming school levy if you moved forward with Get Real.⁴ Your actions validate those who chose to put our children's futures at risk. By doing so, you are holding their education hostage to the demands of extremists that push fear and shame based abstinence-only programs despite all evidence that shows they don't work and aren't based in reality.

There are two primary factors that contribute to women achieving their dreams: (1) Reproductive health care and family planning and (2) Education. And if we've learned anything over the past month's overwhelming disclosures of incidents of sexual misconduct and abuse, we've learned that we are in desperate need of education that will strengthen our youth's responsible decision-making and improve communication skills for healthy relationships, inclusivity and consent. With this in mind, we are asking the district administrators and the school board to honor the work of the Human Growth and Development Committee by accepting their twice majority recommendation of the Get Real program.

We are well aware of the loud, politically motivated attacks by factions who work to demonize organizations like Planned Parenthood, the creator of the Get Real curriculum, and intimidate the patients they serve. You should know, however, the Fund conducted a scientific, unbiased

¹ <http://www.spokaneschools.org/Page/127>

² www.smith-barbieri.com

³ <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2017/nov/09/spokane-schools-wont-adopt-planned-parenthood-sex-/>

⁴ Rector Connell Threat Letter 20171015

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survey in 2014 showing a 2 to 1 favorable rating for Planned Parenthood in Spokane County.⁵ Why the support? Because for over one hundred years, Planned Parenthood has proudly continued to be an expert and trusted provider of sexual health education and health services that actually prevent both unintended pregnancies and STIs.

We're confident more will come to light than blaming this decision on a convenient "staff mistake" so we can all learn how the district's direction changed from the committee and board supporting the curriculum overwhelmingly to recently delaying a decision with an expected vote in February 2018 to suddenly deciding to maintain a largely inferior curriculum to that of Get Real.

The District 81 school board and staff should use this as a learning opportunity about their responsibilities and the community's expectations of them and our public schools and immediately approve and implement the Get Real curriculum. The health and future of our families and children are depending on it.

Sincerely,



Sharon Smith
Trustee



Don Barbieri
Trustee

cc: Spokane City Council, 3rd Legislative District Senator & Representatives, Human Growth and Development Committee c/o Homer Todd

⁵ Quality of Life Survey



The 28th Sunday
in Ordinary Time

From the Rector October 15, 2017



Two weeks ago, the Spokesman Review reported that our Spokane Public Schools are considering approval of a sex education program developed by Planned Parenthood. It amazes me that Planned Parenthood was even considered as a credible provider for such a curriculum.

After all, Planned Parenthood is not a neutral party in the area of sex education. They have an aggressive agenda which is contrary to traditional moral values and a business model built on abortion. Imagine if Bishop Daly suggested that the Spokane Public Schools adopt a Catholic curriculum regarding sex education. People would revolt. Many would rightly claim that we are not a neutral party and that we have an aggressive agenda to promote chastity and save unborn human lives. If the Catholic Church has nothing to contribute because we are not a neutral party, then Planned Parenthood should not be allowed to contribute anything either.

Planned Parenthood would no doubt respond to such criticism by focusing on their non-abortion activities and their self-proclaimed status as a "champion for women's health." This is an example of disingenuous marketing that attempts to divert public attention from their evil acts.

One of the committee members responsible for reviewing the curriculum was quoted as being deeply concerned. He indicated that the content is troubling for its graphic nature and the way it sexualizes students.

This should trouble all Catholic parents with students in Spokane Public Schools. It should also give pause to all tax paying citizens whose dollars fund Spokane Public Schools and it needs to be considered the next time we are asked to support a levy.

It is my understanding that the curriculum has not yet received final approval. Before it is too late, I encourage you to contact Ms. Deana Brower who is listed as Board President on the Spokane Public Schools website. Her email address is: DeanaBrower@spokaneschools.org. When sharing our concerns, it is important for us to remember to do so with respect and Christian charity.

Asking for the prayers of Our Lady of Lourdes, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Darrin Connall
Rector

Methodology

- ▶ Telephone survey of all registered voters in Spokane County
- ▶ February 9th-15th, 2014
- ▶ A total of 622 interviews were conducted Countywide with a margin of error of $\pm 3.9\%$
 - An oversample was conducted in the City of Spokane to provide a total of 390, which means City of Spokane results can be calculated at MoE $\pm 4.5\%$
- ▶ Weighted to reflect overall county-wide registered voter population using key demographics
- ▶ Results are projectable to all registered voters in the County

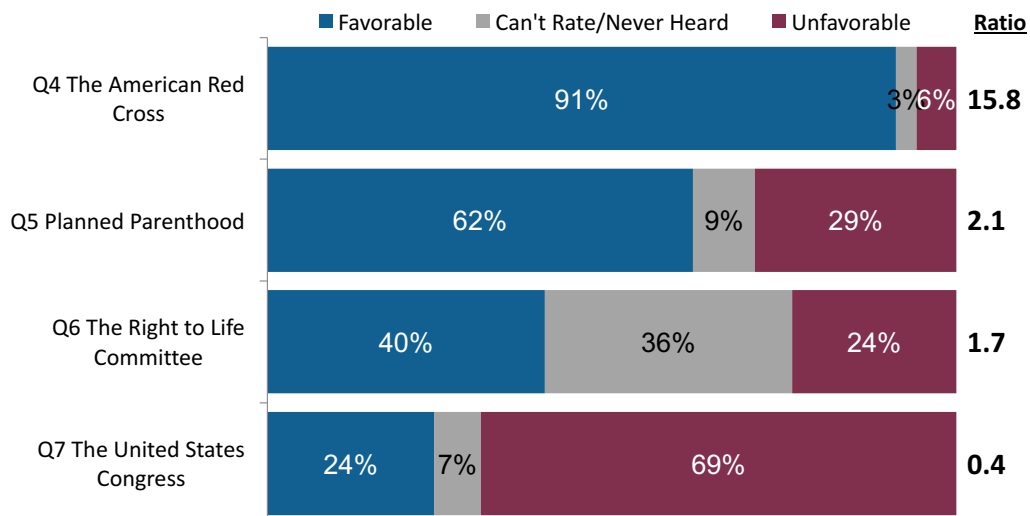
Please note that due to rounding, some percentages may not add up to exactly 100%.



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Favorable Comparison

Planned Parenthood has a 2 to 1 favorable rating, while the Right to Life Committee also has close to a 2 to 1 ratio, a large majority are unfamiliar with the organization



Q4-7 I'm going to read you a list of organizations. For each one please tell me if you have a strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or strongly unfavorable opinion of that organization. If you have never heard of one, please just say so.



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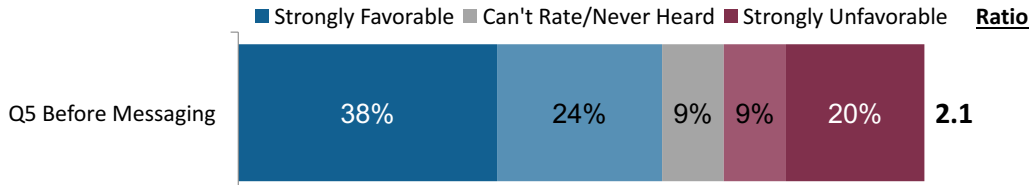
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Planned Parenthood Favorable after Messaging

Even with messaging, Planned Parenthoods favorable remains largely unchanged.



Planned Parenthood provides reproductive health care services including cancer screening and HIV screening, contraception and pregnancy prevention, comprehensive sex education and counseling, abortion services, and advocacy for reproductive rights. 91 percent of the services Planned Parenthood provides are not abortion services. Given this, do you have a strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or strongly unfavorable opinion of Planned Parenthood?



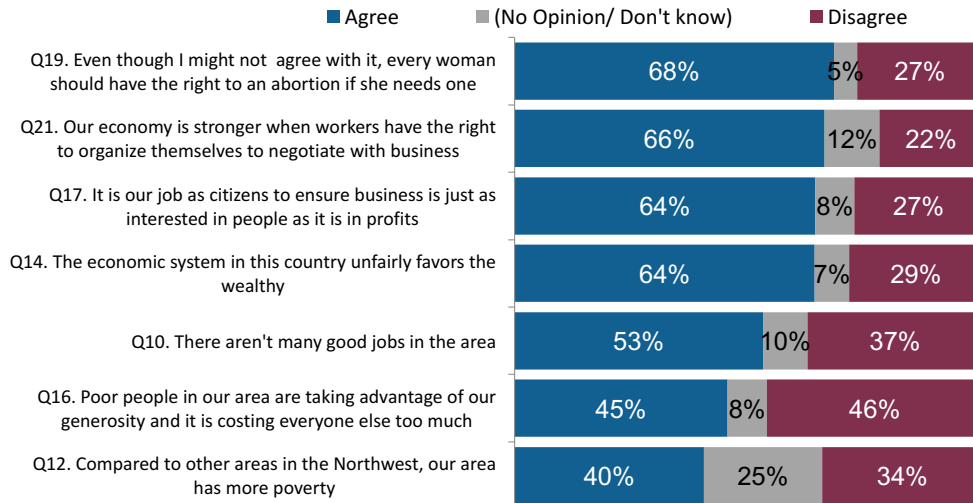
Q8. Given this, do you have a strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or strongly unfavorable opinion of Planned Parenthood?



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Agree Disagree Statements

While a majority of the population remains positive, almost half believe that there are issues with jobs and poverty in the area.



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