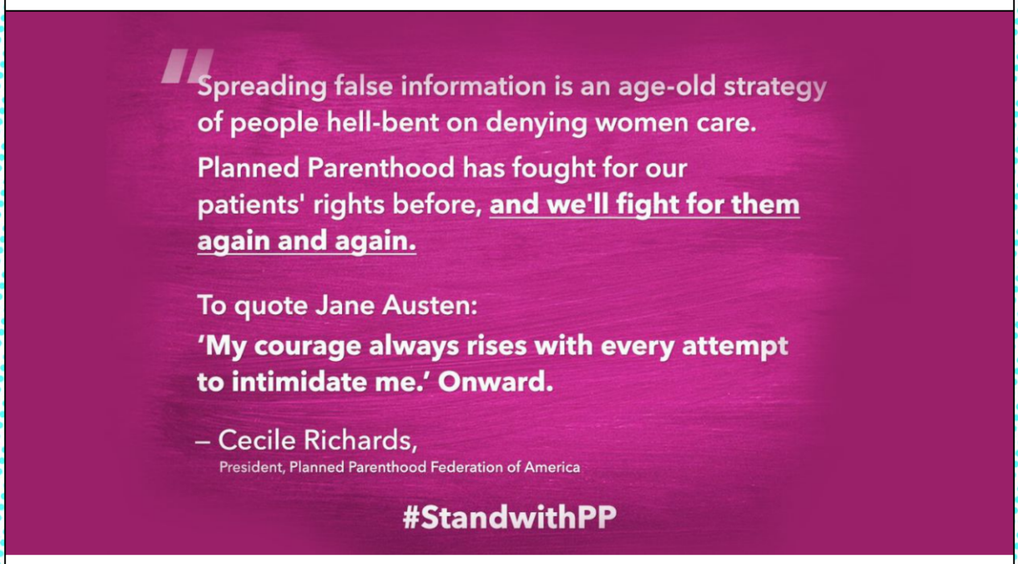

Anti-Choice Fraudsters Attempt a Takedown of Planned Parenthood

JULY 30, 2015 BY AMBER FULLERTON — 16 COMMENTS

By now, everyone is hearing (or has heard) the news about the undercover videos* made by The Center for Medical Progress, an anti-choice organization. These videos claim to catch doctors and other employees of Planned Parenthood speaking about the for-profit sale of organs and other bodily tissue from aborted fetuses. They have trickled out of the conservative corners of the internet to explode onto TV screens and the national stage.

Of course, as with most stories pushed by anti-choice proponents, the videos are complete and utter flummery. They're more sliced up than chop suey, and showcase purposeful misrepresentations in service of anti-choice agendas. They do not spread accurate information or reveal truth.

Sure, at first glance, it's easy to see how someone would be disturbed by the discussion of money changing hands for the remains of aborted fetuses. However, as one dives deeper, a less edited version of the video reveals that the staffers, along with the doctor, are speaking only of reimbursement costs that are standard practice within the medical community, and perfectly within the law.

But of course, a medical professional talking to supposed colleagues about the cost and transfer of fetal specimens is not a very sexy story. Not very clickbaity. Why showcase the fact that all of these tissues were donated by women who intended them to be used exactly this way, for medical research? That wouldn't further their great and noble cause at all! Here's a hint; if you have to lie to get your point across, then you simply don't have a valid point. Which is the more likely? That an anti-abortion coalition has miraculously caught a regulated medical entity running a black market cabal of profitable fetal body parts, or that an anti-choice organization slanted and manipulated the videos to reflect exactly what they want to convey?

I'd say it's pretty obviously the latter. Why, then, is this making national news and spawning proposedhearings in congress? Basically, a lackadaisical approach to research by the mainstream media and the lead-up to next year's presidential election have garnered the blatantly propagandist tapes undeserved attention. Unfortunately, this is what passes for news in today's media world.

These anti-choice bastards know how things work. The story is slipped into conservative broadcasts. Then they wait. Media moguls at the major outlets soon seize on the story without fact checking, and come on air armed with hyperbole and fear mongering. A predictable furor of outraged reactions pours from the GOP, right wing pundits and uneducated "pro-lifers" on the internet. It's no coincidence that this video, though more than a year old, is only coming to light now.

If you fancy that all these republicans running for president aren't mentioning the information supposedly contained in these tapes as fodder in their fundraising speeches, then I'd like to warn you against a game called 'just the tip,' you innocent soul. It's just all so convenient that these videos are giving GOP candidates a way to rile up their constituency. The sad thing is, it's working for the time being.

All we're talking about are these spurious accusations against Planned Parenthood, instead of more important things, like how this conversation has derailed a bill that would have helped wounded veterans get fertility treatments. It's seriously problematic, and I am so sick of these zealots controlling the national conversation. They do so to the detriment of issues that actually have solutions, if we could only find the time and public interest to solve them.

Not just women's issues, but veteran's issues and civil rights issues, and simple crumbling infrastructure issues, for fuck's sake. I mean, hey! Who cares if this rubbish causes some laws that make it harder for indigent women to get birth control, amiright? They spew rhetoric in the hopes of getting MOAR money, MOAR votes. It's all noise and fury to them, but to me, it is an incredibly personal attack on my constitutional freedoms.

I'm not having that. We need to make people pay attention to the facts, and not just the innuendo. To concentrate on actual issues, and not just the scandal mongering headlines. If we don't control the conversation, then the trolls will do it for us. *If you would like to see these videos, you can search the video cache at CNN. I adamantly refuse to be a party to giving these garbage people more clicks.

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