

News Release

For immediate release

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Feminists and human rights supporters to counter anti-Planned Parenthood action in Kent

KENT, WASH. – June 9, 2018. Supporters of reproductive rights and social justice will gather outside Planned Parenthood at the Kent Valley Health Center (SE 240th #A, Kent, WA) on Saturday, June 9 from 11:00am – 2:00pm to counter an action by the far-right group Patriot Prayer. Based in Vancouver, Wash., Patriot Prayer calls for defunding the well-known provider of women’s health services. In January, the mostly male group protested Women’s Marches in major West Coast cities and instigated a showdown at Planned Parenthood in Olympia. In May, it held an “open carry” gun rally in downtown Seattle. It promotes opposition to immigrant, Islamic and LGBTQ communities. Its rallies consistently attract white supremacist, neo-Nazi, and men’s rights groups such as the Proud Boys.

The Planned Parenthood defense is called by Radical Women, Seattle Clinic Defense, ANSWER, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, Freedom Socialist Party, Seattle Gay News, Steve Hoffman for U.S. Senate Campaign and Dyke Community Activists. These groups have worked together to counter several Patriot Prayer actions in Seattle. Radical Women Organizer Gina Petry says participants “will come together in a unified, orderly and strong counter-protest, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with all who are targeted by the far-right. We are united against Trump’s proposed gag rule on abortion services, which is an incitement to the misogyny, bigotry, racism and violence of the far right.” Petry urges all feminists and defenders of civil liberties to attend.

In one interesting sidelight, participants expect the participation of candidates from the right and the left who are vying for the Congressional seat currently held by Democrat Maria Cantwell. Joey Gibson, founder of Patriot Prayer, is running as a Republican. Longtime labor and civil rights activist Steve Hoffman is on the Freedom Socialist Party ticket.

For more information or to arrange an interview, contact Gina Petry, rwseattle@mindspring.com, 206-722-6057.

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Statement of unity

Defend Women’s Reproductive Freedom
Say “No!” to misogynists and white supremacists

Feminists and human rights supporters are standing together against Patriot Prayer and the Joey Gibson for U.S. Senate campaign and their call to “defund Planned Parenthood.”

Patriot Prayer and its far-right cohorts have been stepping up their misogynist attacks on women and reproductive rights by protesting at Planned Parenthood in Olympia and women’s marches in major West Coast cities. They are emboldened by the Trump administration’s agenda to systematically

strip away abortion access and all reproductive choices. The latest example is the revival of a rule denying federal funds to family planning organizations that provide abortions or make referrals for this life-saving medical procedure.

The right-wingers behind the rally in Kent are the same bigots that have been appearing with increasing frequency in Seattle, Vancouver, Portland and California. When they come, they bring violence, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, Islamophobia, etc. Increasingly they have been targeting Muslims, immigrants and the left (socialists, communists, anarchists).

The bigotry, racism and violence that these far-right organizers bring cannot be allowed to go unanswered. Regardless of our diverse political affiliations and views, we understand that solidarity and unity in action is our greatest strength. Solidarity enables us to overcome the barriers towards building a powerful, democratic working-class movement.

We will be shoulder-to-shoulder with all in our community who are targeted by the far-right in a unified, orderly and strong counter-protest.

Join Radical Women, Seattle Clinic Defense, ANSWER, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, Freedom Socialist Party, Seattle Gay News, Steve Hoffman for U.S. Senate Campaign, Dyke Community Activists, International Socialist Organization- Seattle, Workers World Party and Organized Workers for Labor Solidarity to stand against sexism, white supremacy and all forms of bigotry.