

Scarlett Johansson Gave a Powerful Speech About Planned Parenthood at the Women's March

Scarlett Johansson gave a moving speech at the Women's March, capturing EXACTLY why it's critical that the government end its attacks on Planned Parenthood. She made an appeal directly to President Trump, telling him she hopes to support his presidency, but letting him know that can't happen until he supports her first.

Scarlett outlined why Planned Parenthood is important to her in a story that might sound familiar to you.



"Have you been to the gynecologist yet? That is the question my mom asked me at 15 when I informed her about a change I had noticed in my body," Scarlett said. "So yes, at 15 I had been to a gynecologist. I was living in New York City and had visited a Planned Parenthood there."

At that clinic, Scarlett found a safe, supportive environment where a clinician laid out the preventative care options Scarlett had ahead of her.

"It was my clinician at Planned Parenthood who suggested I speak with my pediatrician if I was seeking a referral. She was compassionate and professional and told me she was happy to treat me for regular checkups, and when the time came, for STD and cancer screenings," she said. "No judgement, no questions asked. Planned Parenthood provided a safe place where I could be treated with gentle guidance."

It might be familiar because it's the story millions of people share. Many turn to Planned Parenthood when they're not sure where else to go, or when they **can't afford to go anywhere else**. That's because the clinic provides affordable care for everyone without questioning the decisions that led you there. Instead, they lay out your options going forward, which not only supports patients and puts them at ease, but puts the power in their own hands. It's not just a place for adults, as Scarlett points out, but a place we can all go and be sure we'll receive the best care we can get. We know this is an experience so many people share because the numbers reflect it, but also because we too have had these experiences, or have heard the stories from our friends about their trips to Planned Parenthood. Scarlett has too.

"I'm sure there isn't one person here who has not been helped out by Planned Parenthood directly or otherwise. When I knew I was coming **to speak on behalf of** women's health and reproductive issues, every single one of my girlfriends had a story about Planned Parenthood," Scarlett said. "'They saved me so many times,' one of my best girlfriends confided in me. 'They saved my [life] when I found out I had pre-cancerous signs I wouldn't have found out about without my annual checkups,' she said. (...)

This is the exact reason Planned Parenthood is essential. It gives people of all different backgrounds the ability to live, and to live happily and healthily. It gives essential healthcare that, without the clinic, so many women wouldn't get - particularly **low income women**.

Scarlett said she shared all this because, even though she's typically likes to keep her personal life private, voicing why we need what we need is critical as Planned Parenthood **comes under threat**.

"For the more than 2.5 million patients a year that rely on Planned Parenthood services for cancer and STD screenings, birth control, safe abortion and pregnancy planning these are uncertain and anxious times," she said. "Lawmakers in 24 states have tried to block patients from receiving care at Planned Parenthood. Congress has voted to limit reproductive services 9 times. There are very real and devastating consequences to limiting access to what should be considered basic health care."

That's why we all need to speak up, and why it's so important. It's not just about each of us as individuals, but about people like Scarlett's sister who used Planned Parenthood, and all the strangers out there scared that they could lose the only form of healthcare they have.

We couldn't have said it better, Scarlett.

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Brittney McNamara, Teenvogue.com, January 24, 2017