



PROTECT
OUR CARE

**Protect Our Care, Planned Parenthood
Advocates of Virginia Call Out Rob Wittman
for Putting Tappahannock Hospital At Risk
Of Closure As GOP Medicaid Cuts and
Attacks on Planned Parenthood Threaten
Access to Health Care**

*Over [800 Hospitals](#) and Care Facilities Nationwide Are Under Attack
Due to Trump and Republicans' War on Health Care*



Celeste Garrett of King William County, left, speaks at an April 23 press conference in Tappahannock that called out Congressman Rob Wittman for voting for the Big Ugly Law, which defunded Planned Parenthood and put Tappahannock Hospital at risk of closure. Protect Our Care Virginia State Director Katie Baker, center, and Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia Jamie Lockhart look on. (Photo by Bert Shepherd)

Watch the full event [here](#)

TAPPAHANNOCK, Va. – Protect Our Care Virginia and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia today held a press conference in Tappahannock that called out Rep. Rob

Wittman for his vote for the Big Ugly Bill that has put [Tappahannock Hospital at risk of closure](#). In addition to cutting over \$1 trillion from Medicaid and the ACA, the Big Ugly Law has also blocked Medicaid patients from getting reimbursed for any kind of health care at Planned Parenthood.

Medicaid is an essential pillar of the country's health care system that not only insures over 1.8 million Virginians, but also keeps hospitals and health care clinics, particularly in rural areas, open and able to provide essential critical services. Without Medicaid funding hospitals, emergency departments and maternity wards risk closure, creating health care deserts that eliminate entire communities' access to lifesaving care.

Every service cut and hospital closure is a direct result of Trump and Republicans prioritizing tax breaks for billionaires and big corporations over Americans' health and safety. Hospital closures impact every Virginian's access to health care and overwhelm emergency rooms, cause more avoidable deaths, devastate local economies and drive up costs for everyone. Speakers discussed the need to fully fund Tappahannock Hospital and [other rural hospitals at risk of closure across Virginia](#), and held Republicans accountable for causing widespread harm by gutting Medicaid and defunding Planned Parenthood.

"If I have a major issue that I needed to go to the hospital for, the closest hospital to me is this one right here in Tappahannock," said **Celeste Garrett of King William County**. "It's 20 minutes away. If I were to go to the other VCU in Richmond, it would take an hour to get there, including traffic. So I would love to be able to continue to go to a hospital that is of VCU caliber, that is much closer in case I need hospital care, instead of having to take an hour to get there."

"Rob Wittman sold out his constituents by voting to cut their health care in order to help his billionaire buddies like Elon Musk," said **Katie Baker, Protect Our Care Virginia State Director**. "He has put the entire Tappahannock community in harm's way by putting the hospital at risk of closure. That means people will lose their trusted health care providers and be forced to travel longer distances, including when they need emergency care. We are calling on Rob Wittman to join his Democratic colleagues who are leading efforts to reverse these harmful cuts and restore health care funding for rural communities."

"Tens of thousands of Virginians rely on a Planned Parenthood health center for care, from birth control to cancer screenings to STI detection and treatment. Medicaid is one of the primary ways those patients pay for care," said **Jamie Lockhart, Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia**. "When politicians interfere

with our ability to make personal health decisions — to choose their provider, to access preventive care — entire communities suffer.”

Event Assets

- A recording of the event can be shared on Facebook [HERE](#)
- Radio-quality audio and video from the event can be downloaded [HERE](#)
- Photos from the event are [HERE](#) and may be published with credit to Bert Shepherd.

You can learn more about how hospitals are under attack due to Medicaid cuts [here](#).

###