

# Expanded clinic draws peaceful protesters

By Erin Schulte  
Staff Reporter

Bill Schubert has joined other protesters outside the new Planned Parenthood Clinic, weathering extreme heat and rush-hour traffic, holding a sign that reads "Abortion Kills Children."

"People have asked if the heat bothers me," said Schubert, a member of Lincoln Right to Life. "If you believe in a cause, the weather is no problem. You don't care if it's cold or hot."

Despite his visual effort to protest the clinic, Schubert agrees with clinic administrators about one thing: the protest will stay peaceful.

"I don't think Lincoln will have problems," Schubert said. "There are other places that will be offering more abortions than Lincoln does, and people will protest there."

Though the new clinic does offer first-trimester abortions, people are overplaying the abortion issue, said Chris Funk, executive director of Planned Parenthood of Lincoln.

The new clinic opened Aug. 9 at 3705 South St., because the Planned Parenthood clinic at 2246 O St. was just too crowded, Funk said.

Lincoln has needed a second clinic, offering a wider range of services — first-trimester abortions and prenatal care — for more than five years, she said.

First-trimester abortions account for more than 90 percent of all abortions, Funk said, so Planned Parenthood is

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**BILL SCHUBERT**

a member of Lincoln Right to Life

providing a much-needed service.

The clinic plans to expand its services to men, she said. HIV testing is available now to men at both clinics, Funk said. And the new clinic will offer other reproductive health care services to men.

But the clinic's abortion services get most of the attention. Abortions are available one day a week, Funk said, and that day will not be announced.

The protesters shouldn't bother women coming to the clinic for any service, she said; the new clinic has a private driveway that demonstrators cannot get to.

Patients will be provided with escorts if harassment, such as yelling from the street, becomes a problem, Funk said. And police will be called if protesters trespass onto the fenced-in, private property.

Schubert said he didn't know whether the demonstrations would change the minds of women planning abortions.

"I don't know if they pay any attention to us."



Travis Heying/DN

Ardith Allison, left, and Agnes Groth protest outside the new Planned Parenthood clinic at 3705 South St. The clinic, which opened last week, offers first-trimester abortions. Allison and Groth both have protested the opening of the clinic for several months and plan to continue their efforts.

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