

# Family Planning Coalition

---

c/o National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
1627 K St. NW, 12th Floor Washington, DC 20006 Tel: 202-293-3114 Fax: 202-293-1990

June 10, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
United States House  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
United States House  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Inouye and Cochran and Representatives Rogers and Dicks:

As organizations committed to advancing access to reproductive health care, we are thankful for your leadership in building a health care system that meets the needs of all Americans. Working towards that goal, the Family Planning Coalition respectfully requests that you make a modest investment in the Title X family planning program, with an increase of \$10 million in FY 2012 over FY 2010 funding levels. The Title X program is under increasing pressure, as the safety net system aims to serve more patients than ever with **fewer** resources.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) will change how care is delivered in this country—bringing millions of more patients into a health care system that is already struggling to meet demand. It is imperative that the federal government increase its investment in the Title X family planning program in order to build a strong infrastructure that is equipped to provide care to the millions of Americans gaining coverage in 2014.

This is especially critical for the Title X family planning program, the only infrastructure support program focused on women's health services. Safety net providers will bear much of the burden of maintaining health care for the most vulnerable populations today until full ACA coverage expansion begins in 2014. Annually, Title X serves nearly 5.2 million low-income women and men at over 4,500 health centers. Title X services help women plan pregnancies, thereby helping to prevent nearly one million unintended pregnancies each year. In addition to providing vital contraceptive services, Title X health centers provide other essential preventative health care, comprehensive sex education, and counseling. In 2009, Title X centers provided over 2.2 million Pap tests, more than 2.3 million clinical breast exams, 5.9 million STD tests, and nearly 1 million confidential HIV tests.<sup>1</sup>

The Coalition appreciates the President's leadership in requesting \$327.4 million for Title X in his FY 2012 Budget Request, which is desperately needed to accommodate the expected influx of newly insured Americans.

Title X providers are under extreme pressure to keep up with the cost and demands for care. Title X sites saw an increase of more than 134,000 people in 2009 alone, the biggest single-year increase in a decade. This surge

---

<sup>1</sup> *Family Planning Annual Report 2008 National Summary* Office of Family Planning, Office of Population Affairs, Department of Health and Human Services, November 2009.

in demand came after a 2008-2009 survey showed that nearly one out of four women report putting off a gynecological or birth control visit to save money.<sup>2</sup>

Unfortunately, Title X health centers have been denied access to other essential infrastructure support funding streams, such as health information technology funding, that would help ease these operational challenges. Additionally, they have been deemed ineligible for many of the programs established to help increase the health care workforce, at a time when clinicians are aging out of the program. This underfunding of Title X has left many centers ill-equipped to adequately support staff salaries, facilities, supplies, contraceptive drugs and devices.

**The Family Planning Coalition urges you to make a modest investment in Title X, with an increase of \$10 million in FY 2012** to effectively meet the needs of low-income women and men. If we do not strengthen the infrastructure now, the network will be unable to serve the millions of patients who will be turning to these providers in 2014. The Coalition looks forward to working with you to strengthen America's dedicated family planning program and invest in the critical health infrastructure that Americans deserve. Thank you.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Medical Women's Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Social Health Association  
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals  
Advocates for Youth  
Catholics for Choice  
Center for Reproductive Rights  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Law Program  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health  
Reproductive Health Technologies Project  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S.  
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy  
The Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine

---

<sup>2</sup> *A Real-Time Look at the Impact of the Recession on Women's Family Planning and Pregnancy Decisions*, Guttmacher Institute, September 2009.