

Oppose Efforts to Exclude Abortion Providers from the Title X Program

Title X Health Centers Targeted Again by Anti-Choice Legislators

NFPRHA strongly opposes attempts to prohibit abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood health centers, from receiving Title X funding or other federal funds. Such attempts would weaken the publicly funded family planning network, causing some health centers to lay off staff, close their doors, and leave their patients with nowhere to go for preventive services and other essential care. **Any efforts to defund abortion providers undercut the Title X family planning program**—the only dedicated source of federal funding for family planning care in the United States.

This year, anti-choice Representatives Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) and Diane Black (R-TN) and Senator David Vitter (R-LA) have introduced legislation (H.R. 61, H.R. 217, and S. 135, respectively) to strip all abortion providers – and entities that fund abortion providers – of Title X funding. These bills would block Title X grant administrators from providing funding and other critical resources to hundreds of health centers.

Similar legislation has been introduced in previous congresses and a **bi-partisan group of lawmakers** have routinely defeated the bills. **Despite growing grassroots support for family planning providers and increased access to contraception**, some anti-choice politicians continue their attempts to undercut the Title X program.

Excluding Abortion Providers from Title X Would Severely Weaken the Public Health Safety Net

- Prohibiting abortion providers – and the organizations that fund them – from receiving Title X funding or other federal funds would deny millions of women and men access to a full range of preventive health services, including annual exams and cancer screenings.
- In the past two years alone, **135 new restrictions** have been passed by states to limit women's access to sexual and reproductive health services including waiting period requirements, mandatory invasive ultrasounds, and medically inaccurate mental health counseling.¹ These restrictions negatively affect Title X-funded health centers and the patients they serve.

Planned Parenthood Health Centers are Trusted and Effective Health Care Providers

- Women and men throughout the country have relied on Planned Parenthood health centers for their preventive health care for over 90 years.

- Each year, Planned Parenthoods provide nearly 750,000 breast exams, contraception for nearly 2.5 million patients, nearly one million cervical cancer screenings, and nearly four million tests and treatments for STDs, including HIV.
- Planned Parenthood is often the only accessible provider for uninsured or underinsured women who cannot afford to seek care at other providers. One in five American women has received care from a Planned Parenthood health center at some point in her life.

Restricting the Title X Network Adversely Impacts Low-income and Minority Women

- Approximately 70% of Title X patients have incomes at or below the federal poverty level (FPL) – which is currently \$11,490 per year.² These patients receive family planning services at little or no cost as they could not afford it otherwise.
- Title X patients are disproportionately black and Latino, with 20% of Title X patients self-identifying as black and 29% as Latino,³ as compared to 12.6% and 16.3% of the nation, respectively.⁴

Efforts to Weaken the Title X Network Place Millions of People at Risk

Passage of these bills could result in the dismantling of the Title X network. In states such as Texas, Indiana, Iowa, and Kansas, health centers that provide vital preventive health services have already been forced to close their doors due to similar state-level attacks. These federal bills not only prohibit abortion providers from accessing Title X funding, but also deny family planning funding to any entity that provides ANY resources – including non-federal funding – to an abortion provider. Moreover, any entity participating in the Title X program is already prohibited from using federal funds for abortion services.⁵

For more than 40 years, millions of poor and low-income women and men have been able to rely on a diverse group of providers including **state, county and local health departments, hospitals, family planning councils, and private non-profit organizations** to provide family planning care. These bills take away local control of provider networks while reducing access to care for millions of people.

Oppose Efforts to Dismantle the Title X Network

At a time when a growing number of women and men lack access to a consistent source of health care, these bills would serve only to exacerbate the gaps in access for the poor and low income. Congress should support the Title X system and the patients who rely on the network for their care – **H.R. 61, H.R. 217, and S. 135 should be defeated.**

¹ Guttmacher Institute, *2012 Saw Second-Highest Number of Abortion Restrictions Ever* (January 2013), <http://www.guttmacher.org/media/inthenews/2013/01/02/index.html>.

² Department of Health and Human Services “2013 Poverty Guidelines,” US Department of Health and Human Services website, accessed April 2013, <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/13poverty.cfm>.

³ RTI International, *Family Planning Annual Report: 2011 National Summary* (November 2012), <http://www.hhs.gov/opa/pdfs/fpar-2011-national-summary.pdf>.

⁴ Census Bureau, *Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin: 2010* (March 2011), <http://www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/briefs/c2010br-02.pdf>.

⁵ P.L. 91-572, 1970.