



March 29, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Kingston  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education, and Related Agencies  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Harkin, Kingston and Ranking Members Moran and DeLauro:

As you continue to develop a Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 appropriations measure to fund the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and related agencies, the undersigned members of the Family Planning Coalition **respectfully request that you provide \$327 million in funding for the Title X family planning program.** The organizations listed below collectively represent millions of administrators, providers, and patients who share the common mission of supporting and protecting federal funds for critical, cost-saving programs that provide family planning services to millions of women, men and families. By expanding support for the Title X family planning program you will help protect access to the public health safety net for millions in need of high-quality health services.

Title X is the sole source of dedicated federal funding for family planning services for underserved populations – approximately two thirds of women nationwide obtaining publicly funded family planning do so at Title X-funded health centers.<sup>1</sup> Health centers receiving Title X funding help women plan pregnancies, thereby helping to prevent nearly one million unintended pregnancies each year.<sup>2</sup> In addition to providing vital contraceptive services, Title X health

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<sup>1</sup> Cohen, Susan A. "The Numbers Tell the Story: The Reach and Impact of Title X." *Guttmacher Policy Review*. Spring 2011, Volume 14, Number 2. <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/gpr/14/2/gpr140220.html#6>

<sup>2</sup> Guttmacher Institute. *Facts on Publicly Funded Contraceptive Services in the United States*. March 2012. [http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb\\_contraceptive\\_serv.html](http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_contraceptive_serv.html)

centers offer other essential preventative health care, comprehensive sex education, and counseling to five million low income individuals each year.<sup>3</sup> In fact, six out of ten women surveyed chose to visit a women's health center for women's primary care, even though they had visited other medical providers in the past year. For four out of ten women, a women's health center is their only source of care.<sup>4</sup>

Recently, the Title X program has experienced devastating cuts –a total reduction of \$23.6 million in federal funding over FY2011 and FY2012, which providers absorbed in a single calendar year. As a result, many health centers across the country were forced to close while others reduced patient hours, limited services, and laid off staff. Because of these funding cuts the program experienced a decline of over 200,000 patients in just one year.<sup>5</sup> In addition to these cuts, Title X will face an additional 5–9 percent cut, or nearly \$15–\$26 million in additional funding reductions, due to sequestration in FY 2013. Deeper cuts to the Title X program will continue to exacerbate barriers for women trying to access important preventive health services.

Funding for the Title X program is a critical and life saving investment in the well-being of women and their families across the country. In addition to providing services, the Title X program also supports the nation's health care infrastructure. Investing in Title X will help providers meet the demand for health care as the Affordable Care Act is implemented by supporting the implementation of health information technology, building a strong workforce, and upgrading medical equipment.

The Coalition looks forward to working with you to strengthen America's only dedicated family planning program and invest in the critical health infrastructure that millions of Americans rely on for basic health care. We thank you for your consideration and urge you to include at least **\$327 million in FY 2014 for the Title X family planning program.**

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Dana Thomas at the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association or Karen Stone at Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

Sincerely,

Abortion Care Network  
Advocates for Youth  
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families

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<sup>3</sup> Office of Populations Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. "Title X Family Planning Annual Report, 2011 National Summary." November 2012. <http://www.hhs.gov/opa/pdfs/fpar-2011-national-summary.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Frost, J., Gold, R. "Specialized Family Planning Clinics in the United States: Why Women Choose Them and Their Role in Meeting Women's Health Care Needs." *Women's Health Issues*. Volume 22, Issue 6, Pages e519–e525, November 2012 <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/journals/j.whi.2012.09.002.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Office of Populations Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *Title X Family Planning Annual Report, 2011 National Summary*. November 2012. <http://www.hhs.gov/opa/pdfs/fpar-2011-national-summary.pdf>

AIDS United  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
Americans Association of Birth Centers  
American College of Nurse–Midwives  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Humanist Association  
American Nurses Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Sexual Health Association  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs  
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals  
Black Women’s Health Imperative  
Catholics for Choice  
Center for Women Policy Studies  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
Childbirth Connection  
GMHC  
Global Justice Institute  
Hadassah, The Women’s Zionist Organization of America, Inc.  
Healthy Teen Network  
HIV Medicine Association  
International Center for Traditional Childbearing (ICTC)  
Jewish Women International  
Methodist Federation for Social Action  
Metropolitan Community Churches  
NARAL Pro–Choice America  
National Abortion Federation  
National Association of Certified Professional Midwives (NACPM)  
National Association of County and City Health Officials  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition of STD Directors  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Law Program  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Women’s Health Network  
National Women’s Law Center

People for the American Way  
Physicians for Reproductive Health  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Population Connection  
Population Institute  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
Reproductive Health Technologies Project  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)  
Society for Adolescent Health & Medicine  
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy  
The AIDS Institute  
The Midwives Alliance  
The United Methodist Church, General Board of Church & Society  
The Women's Collective  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Women of Reform Judaism

Cc: The United States Senate Appropriations Committee  
The United States House of Representatives Appropriations Committee