



April 20, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
and Education
2358-B Rayburn Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Cole and Representative DeLauro:

The undersigned organizations collectively represent millions of providers, patients, administrators, researchers, and advocates who support federal funds for the Title X family planning program, which helps ensure that millions of individuals can access high-quality family planning and sexual health services. We share the approach of former President George H.W. Bush, who, as the lead congressional sponsor of the legislation that created the Title X program, said in 1969:

We need to make population and family planning household words. We need to take sensationalism out of this topic so that it can no longer be used by militants who have no real knowledge of the voluntary nature of the [Title X national family planning] program but, rather are using it as a political stepping stone. If family planning is anything, it is a public health matter.ⁱ

As you develop the fiscal year (FY) 2018 funding framework for the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you similarly recognize the essential role of publicly funded family planning and sexual health care services by funding Title X at \$327 million in FY2018.

Title X helps more than 4 million people access family planning and related services at nearly 4,000 health centers around the country annually.ⁱⁱ For many individuals, particularly those who are low-income, uninsured or adolescents, Title X is essential to their ability to affordably and confidentially obtain birth control, cancer screenings, STI tests and other basic care. Six in ten women seen at a Title X-supported health care center have reported that the center was their usual source of medical care.ⁱⁱⁱ

In 2014, Title X–funded health centers helped prevent approximately 904,000 unintended pregnancies, thereby preventing 326,000 abortions and 439,000 unplanned births.^{iv} In addition to direct clinical care, Title X supports critical infrastructure needs (including new medical equipment and staff training) that are not reimbursable under Medicaid or private insurance.

Notably, research has shown that Title X–supported services save the federal and state governments approximately \$7 billion a year,^v and 75% of American adults—including 66% of Republicans, 75% of Independents, and 84% of Democrats—support the program.^{vi}

In spite of the increasing need for publicly funded family planning services and the demonstrated public health and fiscal benefits of the program, Title X investments have been substantially cut in recent years. From 2010 to 2014 the number of women who needed publicly funded family planning services increased by 1 million,^{vii} but Congress cut Title X’s funding by \$31 million from FY 2010 to FY 2014. Congress has yet to restore the program’s funding to \$317 million, its peak investment (which was the appropriation in FY 2010).^{viii} The reduced program investment is counter to research published in the *American Journal of Public Health* stating that Title X would need at least \$737 million to support all women in need of publicly funded family planning services.^{ix} It also unfortunately corresponds to dramatic decreases in the number of patients served at Title X–funded sites; the numbers dropped from 5.22 million in 2010^x to 4.02 million in 2015.^{xi} **We are deeply concerned about diminishing access to high–quality family planning and sexual health services and urge Congress to increase funding for Title X to \$327 million in FY2018 to reverse this devastating trend.**

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Lauren Weiss at the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association at lweiss@nfprha.org or 202–293–3114 ext. 224 or Karen Stone at Planned Parenthood Federation of America at karen.stone@ppfa.org or 202–973–4834.

Thank you for considering these requests.

Sincerely,

AIDS Alabama
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Civil Liberties Union
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Sexual Health Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Cascade AIDS Project
Catholics for Choice
Girls Inc.
Healthy Teen Network
HIV Medicine Association
Institute for Science and Human Values
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Abortion Federation
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council of Jewish Women
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
PAI
People For the American Way
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Connection Action Fund
Population Institute
Project Inform
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

ⁱ Clare Coleman and Kirtly Jones, "Title X: a proud past, an uncertain future," *Contraception* 84 (2011): 209-211.

<http://www.arhp.org/UploadDocs/journaleditorialsept2011.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Christina Fowler et al, "Family Planning Annual Report: 2015 National Summary," RTI International (August 2016).

<https://www.hhs.gov/opa/sites/default/files/title-x-fpar-2015.pdf>.

ⁱⁱⁱ Adam Sonfield, Kinsey Hasstedt, and Rachel Gold, "Moving Forward: Family Planning in the Era of Health Reform," Guttmacher Institute (March 2014). <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/moving-forward-family-planning-era-health-reform>.

^{iv} Jennifer Frost, Lori Frohwirth and Mia Zolna, "Contraceptive Needs and Services, 2014 Update," Guttmacher Institute (September 2016). <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/contraceptive-needs-and-services-2014-update>.

^v Adam Sonfield, "Beyond Preventing Unplanned Pregnancy: The Broader Benefits of Publicly Funded Family Planning Services," *Guttmacher Policy Review* (December 2014). <https://www.guttmacher.org/gpr/2014/12/beyond-preventing-unplanned-pregnancy-broader-benefits-publicly-funded-family-planning>.

^{vi} Survey Says: Birth Control Support, The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (2017).

<https://thenationalcampaign.org/resource/survey-says-january-2017>.

^{vii} Frost, Frohwirth and Zolna, “Contraceptive Needs and Services, 2014 Update.”

^{viii} Title X (Public Health Service Act) Family Planning Program, Congressional Research Service (2017).

^{ix} Euna August, et al, “Projecting the Unmet Need and Costs for Contraception Services After the Affordable Care Act,” *American Journal of Public Health* (February 2016): 334–341.

^x Christina Fowler et al, “Family Planning Annual Report: 2010 National Summary,” RTI International (August 2011).

<https://www.hhs.gov/opa/sites/default/files/fpar-2010-national-summary.pdf>.

^{xi} Fowler et al, “Family Planning Annual Report: 2015 National Summary.”