



Family Planning Coalition

c/o National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association

1627 K St. NW, 12th Floor Washington, DC 20006 Phone: 202-293-3114

June 24, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
S-128 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski
Vice Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Committee
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairwoman Mikulski:

The fiscal year (FY) 2016 draft of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) funding bill that was passed by the Senate Appropriations Labor-HHS Subcommittee proposes a significant and harmful cut to the Title X family planning program, the nation's only dedicated source of family planning funding. **The undersigned organizations urge you to oppose this drastic measure and protect the millions of poor and low-income women and men who depend on the Title X program for affordable family planning and reproductive health care services.**

Our organizations collectively represent millions of administrators, providers, patients, researchers, and advocates who share the common mission of supporting and protecting federal funds, like Title X, that provide affordable family planning services. By standing with us and opposing cuts to Title X, you will help protect access to a public health program that serves nearly 4.6 million poor and low-income men and women across the country in 4,200 health care centers. These centers, and their dedicated staffs, helped prevent 1.1 million unintended pregnancies in 2012, which would likely have resulted in 527,000 unintended births and 363,000 abortions.ⁱ Moreover, supporting the Title X program makes good fiscal sense. For every dollar invested in publicly funded family planning care, over \$7 dollars are saved in Medicaid spending.ⁱⁱ

Title X has already sustained a series of cuts over that last five years that are compromising the program's capacity to serve those in need. For example, providers have been forced to lay off staff and limit service hours and offerings. As a result of funding reductions between FY 2010 and FY 2013 alone, 667,000 patients served have been lost from the program without indication that they have sought care from other health care providers—a troubling fact given that 70% of Title X clients have incomes at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (an income of \$11,770 a year in 2015),ⁱⁱⁱ and six in ten individuals identify Title X-supported health centers as their usual source of care.^{iv}

Not only are these cuts damaging to public health and fiscally irresponsible, they are also unpopular. Recent polling shows that women voters are three times more likely to support a member of Congress who wants an increase in federal funding for family planning than a member of Congress who wants to cut funding.^v **As the Senate works to advance its FY 2016 Labor-HHS appropriations bill, we respectfully request that Title X funding be restored.**

Sincerely,

The Below Signed Organizations:

30 for 30 Campaign
Academic Pediatric Association
Advocates for Youth
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
AIDS United
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of University Women
American Civil Liberties Union
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Pediatric Society
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Sexual Health Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
Black Women's Health Imperative
Cascade AIDS Project
Catholics for Choice
Center for Reproductive Rights
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
HealthHIV
Healthy Teen Network
HIV Medicine Association
Housing Works
Human Rights Campaign
Institute for Science and Human Values, Inc
League of Women Voters of the United States
NARAL Pro-Choice America
Nashville CARES
National Abortion Federation
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Partnership for Women & Families

National Women's Health Network
Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
Pediatric Policy Council
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Connection Action Fund
Population Institute
Positive Women's Network-USA
Pozitively Healthy
Project Inform
Public Health Institute
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
Republican Majority for Choice
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society for Pediatric Research
The AIDS Institute
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
The National Coalition for LGBT Health
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
National Women's Law Center
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

Cc: Senate Appropriations Committee Members

Cc: Senate Leadership

ⁱ Frost, J.J., Zolna MR and Frohwirth L, *Contraceptive Needs and Services, 2012 Update*, New York: Guttmacher Institute, 2014, Available online at <http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/win/contraceptive-needs-2012.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ Frost, J. J., Sonfield, A., Zolna, M. R. and Finer, L. B. (2014), Return on Investment: A Fuller Assessment of the Benefits and Cost Savings of the US Publicly Funded Family Planning Program. *Milbank Quarterly*, 92: 696–749. doi:10.1111/1468-0009.12080

ⁱⁱⁱ Christina Fowler, Julia Gable, Jiantong Wang, and Emily McClure, Title X Family Planning Annual Report: 2013 National Summary, (Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International, November 2014), <http://www.hhs.gov/opa/pdfs/fpar-2013-national-summary.pdf>.

^{iv} Frost JJ, U.S. Women's Use of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services: Trends, Sources of Care and Factors Associated with Use, 1995–2010, New York:Guttmacher Institute, 2013, <<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/sources-of-care-2013.pdf>>.

^v Polling conducted by the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association in 2015 among a representative sample of female Republican, Democratic and Independent voters.