

June 18, 2015

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Appropriation Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services and Education
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services and Education
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA), **I urge you to protect the Title X family planning program, the nation's only dedicated source of family planning funding, from elimination as proposed in today's House Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Chairman's mark that was passed out of Subcommittee.**

NFPRHA is a national membership organization representing 875 institutions that comprise the nation's publicly funded family planning providers – nurse practitioners, nurses, administrators, and other key health care professionals. NFPRHA's members operate or fund a network of nearly 5,000 health centers and service sites that provide high-quality family planning and other preventive health services to millions of low-income, uninsured, or underinsured individuals in 50 states and the District of Columbia. Services are provided through state, county, and local health departments as well as hospitals, family planning councils, Planned Parenthoods, federally qualified health centers, and other private non-profit organizations.

The House FY 2016 Labor-HHS funding package, if adopted, would eliminate Title X and jeopardize the network that remains the primary source of health care for millions of individuals nationwide. Over the past five years, Title X has already been subjected to politically motivated cuts, compromising the network's stability and capacity to serve patients: 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 obtained or accessed care from other health care providers. This fact is particularly troubling 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 for an individual in 2015), and six in ten individuals identify their safety-net provider as their usual source of care.

Furthermore, eliminating Title X is counter to public demand. Earlier this month, NFPRHA released national public opinion polling results that again demonstrate women's strong support for increased funding for family planning. According to poll findings, women 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. **As the Senate Appropriations Committee works to advance its FY**

2016 Labor-HHS Appropriations bill, NFPRHA respectfully requests that the Committee preserve and increase funding for Title X, a cost-effective, publicly supported, proven preventive and public health service.

To access our latest fact sheets, research, and to learn more about the breadth of the Title X-funded family planning provider network, I invite you to visit www.nationalfamilyplanning.org or call us at 202-293-3114.

Thanks for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clare M. Coleman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Clare Coleman
President & CEO

Cc: Senate Labor-HHS Appropriations Subcommittee Members

Cc: Senate Leadership