

March 16, 2023

Representative Robert Aderholt, Chairman
Representative Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies
House Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As President & CEO of the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA), I thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of a **fiscal year (FY) 2024 appropriation of \$512 million for the Title X family planning program (Office of Population Affairs, funded within the Health Resources and Services Administration account)**. We are grateful for the committee's leadership in advocating for family planning, including proposing a game-changing \$500 million for Title X in the FY 2023 bill, and urge you to take a substantial step forward again this year.

NFPRHA is a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership association that supports the work of family planning providers and administrators, especially in the safety net. NFPRHA membership includes nearly 1,000 entities that operate or fund more than 3,500 health centers that deliver high-quality family planning education and preventive care to millions of people every year in the United States. As a leading expert in publicly funded family planning, NFPRHA provides subject matter expertise to policymakers, health care providers, and the public; offers its members service delivery support aimed at providing high-quality and patient-centered care; and conducts and participates in research. As of March 2023, NFPRHA represents more than 80% of Title X grantees,

including state and local health departments, federally qualified health centers, Planned Parenthood affiliates, family planning councils, and more.

As you know, Title X is the only federal program dedicated to providing family planning services for people living with low incomes. Title X-funded health centers are lifelines in their communities, providing high-quality family planning and sexual health care, including cancer screenings, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, contraceptive services and supplies, pregnancy testing, and other essential health care services. These centers are critical access points for people who often face severe structural barriers to accessing quality health care, such as people with low incomes, people with no or insufficient insurance, people of color, people who live and work in rural areas, and LGBTQ people. Indeed, six in ten women who sought contraceptive care at Title X-funded health centers in 2016 said that provider was their only source of health care for the entire year.¹ In 2021, the program served 1.7 million people through 3,284 health centers across the country.²

Title X is funded at \$286.5 million for FY 2023, well below the \$500 million proposed in last year's House bill and the \$737 million that researchers from the CDC, OPA, and The George Washington University determined would be needed annually just to provide family planning care to low-income women without insurance.³ This is a significant under-estimate of the true need, especially as the program now serves more

¹ Meghan Kavanaugh, "Use of Health Insurance Among Clients Seeking Contraceptive Services at Title X-Funded Facilities in 2016," Guttmacher Institute (June 2018).

² Christina Fowler, Julia Gable, and Beth Lasater, "Family Planning Annual Report: 2021 National Summary," Office of Population Affairs (September 2022). <https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2022-09/2021-fpar-national-final-508.pdf>.

³ 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.

than 100,000 men, and an unknown number of nonbinary people, each year. Therefore, we respectfully request \$512 million for the Title X program in FY 2024. That funding level will allow the program to begin to meet this growing need and expand to reach millions more people. This funding level marks the half-way point between current funding and the CDC-identified level and also aligns with the President's FY 2024 budget.

The flat funding of this critical program for nearly a decade has significantly constrained its ability to reach communities in need. These funding limitations have been felt particularly keenly in recent years, as the network attempts to recover from a confluence of existential crises: the Trump administration's 2019 program rule, which resulted in more than 1 million service sites leaving the program and made it impossible in many situations to provide evidence-based, comprehensive care to patients; the COVID-19 pandemic, which left no facet of the health care system unharmed; and the ongoing emergency of a rapidly diminishing health care workforce amidst record inflation. Without a significant funding increase, health centers will not be able to continue offering services at current levels, let alone build capacity to serve the millions of people who want family planning and sexual health care but cannot access it, causing harm both to those individuals and the nation's public health. For example, in 2022 dozens of grantees representing hundreds of potential service sites were approved by OPA but left unfunded due to insufficient appropriations. I urge you to begin to address these challenges by increasing appropriations for Title X this year.

I look forward to working with you to support this critical program as the FY 2024 appropriations process moves forward. If you have any questions, please contact Lauren Weiss, Director, Policy & Communications, at lweiss@nfprha.org or 202-417-4867.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clare M. Coleman". The signature is written in a light grey or blue ink.

Clare Coleman

President & CEO