

National
Family Planning
& Reproductive Health Association

January 24, 2017

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

As a membership organization representing providers and administrators committed to helping people get the family planning education and care they need, the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA) writes in opposition to Representative Tom Price's nomination to serve as our nation's Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The mission of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is "to enhance and protect the health and well-being of all Americans."¹ Yet during his years in Congress, Representative Price has consistently championed policies that would undermine the health and well-being of women and men. His demonstrated history of not supporting the publicly funded family planning network and the patients it serves is deeply troubling. NFPRHA is further concerned by the congressman's opposition to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and his commitment to undermining Medicaid.

Representative Price's record and public statements demonstrate his clear opposition to the ACA. While in Congress, he voted more than 60 times for its repeal.² He has voted to eliminate Medicaid's longstanding protection allowing Medicaid beneficiaries to receive family planning services from the provider of their choice, and he has championed harmful cuts to Medicaid funding and programmatic changes through the use of block grants and per capita caps.³ Altering the structure and financing of the program could cause irreparable damage to the safety net – at a time when demand for these service will grow.

Furthermore, Representative Price's record exhibits a disregard for the diverse, highly qualified network of providers that deliver affordable, high-quality, voluntary, comprehensive, and culturally sensitive family planning and sexual health care services to millions of Americans who might otherwise lack access to health care. Although the family planning safety net is designed by communities for communities, he has sponsored and voted for legislation that would eviscerate access to essential family planning and sexual health services, including through

barring Planned Parenthood from receiving federal funding⁴ and eliminating funding for Title X, the nation's family planning program.⁵

Representative Price's record clearly demonstrates he is not the right person to oversee the programs millions of low-income women and men rely on, and NFPRHA therefore urges you to reject this nominee.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Clare Coleman
President & CEO

1 U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services. "About Us." Retrieved 12 January 17, from <https://www.hhs.gov/about/index.html#>

2 Planned Parenthood Federation of America. (2016, November). *Tom Price, Trump's Pick to Lead HHS, Would Take Away Millions of Women's Health Care*. Retrieved 12 January 2017, from <https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/blog/tom-price-trumps-pick-to-lead-hhs-would-take-away-millions-of-womens-access-to-health-care>

3 Ibid.

4 Pence amendment to FY'08 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, H.R.3043, (19 July 2007); Pence amendment to FY'10 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, H.R.3293, (24 July 2009); Pence amendment to FY'11 Continuing Resolution, H.R.1, (18 February 2011); FY'11 Continuing Resolution, H.R.1, (19 February 2011); Enrollment resolution to FY'11 Continuing Resolution, H.Con.Res.36, (14 April 2011); Defund Planned Parenthood Act, H.R.3134, (18 September 2015); Women's Public Health and Safety Act, H.R.3495, (29 September 2015); FY'16 Continuing Resolution, H.Con.79, (30 September 2015); Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act, H.R.3762, (23 October 2015); H.R.3762, (6 January 2016); Veto override of H.R.3762, (2 February 2016).

5 FY'11 Continuing Resolution, H.R.1, (19 February 2011).