

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Appropriations 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 2051

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As you begin work on the FY 2016 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to include \$327 million for the Title X family planning program. This will allow Title X health centers to continue their important role in our health care safety net – providing family planning and preventive health services to millions of low-income American women and families.

Title X is the only federal program dedicated to providing family planning services for low-income patients. Title X provides basic primary and preventive health care services such as Pap tests, breast exams, and HIV testing, to more than 4.5 million low-income women and men at nearly 4,200 health centers each year. In fact, four out of ten women who receive care at a Title X-funded health center consider it to be their only source of health care, and furthermore six in ten women consider it their primary source of care.

In addition, investing in Title X reduces health care costs in the long term. Every dollar invested in Title X saves more than seven dollars in Medicaid-related costs.

Yet as a result of recent budget cuts to Title X, the network has suffered – some health centers have been forced to scale back hours or limit services, lay off staff, and even shutter their doors – all of which resulted in 667,000 fewer patients served by the program in just a three-year period. Adequately funding Title X will help family planning health centers restore and expand access to essential services and meet the needs of millions of women and men who rely on the program as their only source of health care.

We ask that you protect this critical program and support the health needs of millions of women and men by providing \$327 million in FY 2016 for the Title X program. We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Barbara Boxer
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



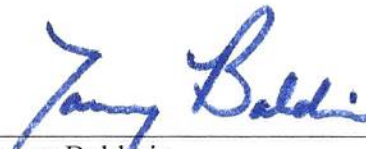
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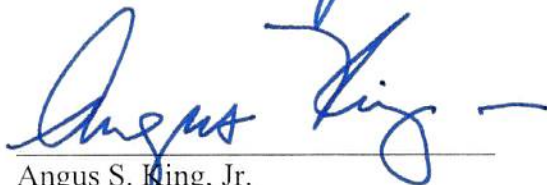
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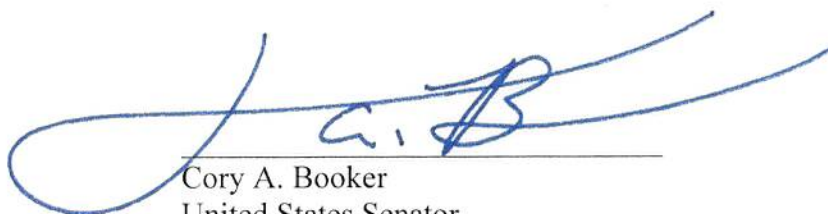
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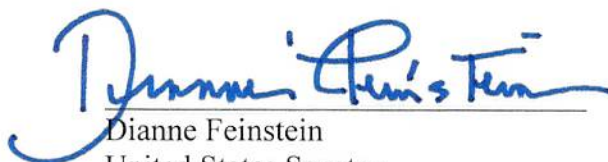

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



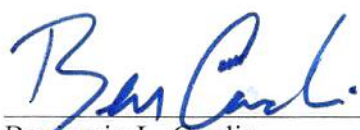
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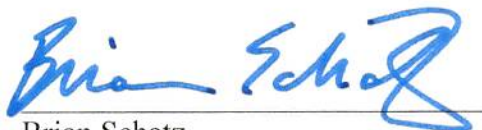
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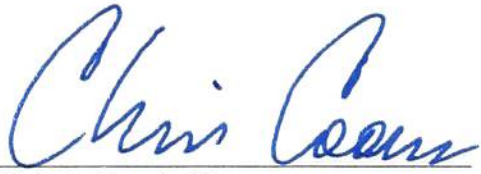
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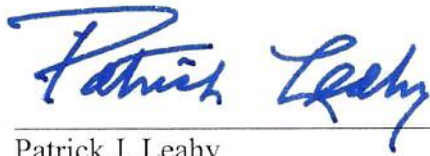
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