Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2015

The Honorable Tom Cole Chairman Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services and Education 2358-B Rayburn Office Building Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services
and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year 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 preventive health and family planning 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, but beyond that, it is the only source of health care for nearly half of the patients it serves. 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 six in ten women consider it their primary source of care. Every year, Title X provides basic primary and preventive health care services, such as cancer screenings, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and domestic violence counseling, as well as family planning services, to more than 4.5 million low-income women and men at nearly 4,200 health centers each year.

However, the Title X program needs sufficient funding in order to keep these critical services available. As a result of recent budget cuts, the network of health clinics receiving Title X funds has suffered greatly. Health centers have been forced to scale back hours, limit services, lay off staff, and even shutter their doors. The result is nearly 700,000 fewer patients served by the program in just a three-year period. Adequately funding Title X will help these health centers restore and expand access to essential services, allowing them to help meet the needs of millions of women and men who rely on the program as their only source of health care.

The benefits of Title X go even further than the direct health benefits to the men and women the program serves, because investing in Title X reduces health care costs in the long term. The latest data has shown that every dollar invested in Title X saves more than <u>seven</u> dollars in Medicaid-related costs. Supporting and strengthening the program is a fiscally responsible investment in public health.

For 45 years, Title X has been a public health success story in providing high quality health care to our nation's most vulnerable populations. 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,

JOSEPH CROWLEY

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

SANDER\M. LEVIN

Member of Congress

Member of Congress

IER BECERRA Member of Congress

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