

## **Title X Cuts Will Harm Safety Net and Block Access to Care to Patients with the Greatest Need**

- The US House of Representative's fiscal year (FY) 2018 appropriations bill includes a full elimination of the Title X family planning program, a federal grant program that supports health centers that provide a range of high-quality preventive health services, including breast and cervical cancer detection, screening for sexually transmitted diseases, HIV testing, and contraceptive counseling, services, and supplies.
- If Title X is eliminated, highly qualified health care providers will be forced to close their doors, and millions of low-income women and their families would be left without access to preventive care they need to stay healthy. Any funding cuts to the Title X program would damage the health care safety net and make it harder for patients with the greatest need to receive care.
- The House's deeply flawed bill is a direct attack on the low-income individuals who rely on the publicly funded family planning network to have their preventive health needs met. These attacks disproportionately harm people of color, immigrants, young people, and people living in rural communities.
- When people do not have timely, affordable access to the high-quality family planning care and education they need, they are at greater risk of sexually transmitted disease, unintended pregnancy, and certain cancers. It is shameful that Congress would even consider a bill that directly leads to these poor health outcomes.
- The unintended pregnancy rate is at a record low and the rate of teen pregnancy is at a 30-year low. If Title X is cut or eliminated, the nation risks reversing those public health gains.
- In recent years, publicly funded family planning providers have been forced to do more with fewer resources.
  - Since 2010, the Title X has been cut by a net \$31 million dollars, which has forced health centers to limit hours, lay off staff and, in some cases, close their doors, all of which has fueled a 23% decline in patient volume.
  - Under current funding levels, Title X is only able to meet the demand of about one-third of the women in need, despite a growing need for publicly funded family planning nationwide.
  - To meet the needs of women in need, Title X would require approximately \$737 million annually. This amount does not account for the program's health services for men.