

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2016

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 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As you begin work in the FY 2017 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 families. Every year, Title X provides basic primary and preventive health care services such as Pap tests, breast exams, and HIV testing, to more than 4.1 million low-income women and men at more than 4,100 health centers each year. Seventy percent of all Title X patients live at or below the federal poverty level, meaning they earn less than \$11,700 per year, and six out of ten women who receive care at a Title X-funded health center consider it their primary source of care.

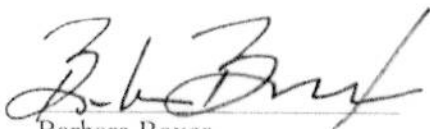
According to a recent study published in the American Journal of Public Health, Title X would require \$737 million in 2016 to be able to serve all low-income women in need of subsidized family planning care. The current budget of Title X falls well short of that, and since 2010, funding for Title X has been cut or flat-funded. While we appreciate the effort to maintain the program's funding level in last year's bipartisan bill, especially given that the House proposed to gut Title X and defund it entirely – making cuts to this program is not a viable option for the program's sustainability.

Budget cuts over the past six years have resulted in health centers being forced to scale back hours or limit services, lay off staff, and even shutter their doors – all under Congress' watch. These harmful cuts have resulted in 1.1 million fewer patients being able to access quality services from the Title X network in just a four-year period. Adequately funding the Title X family planning and preventive health program will help restore and expand access to essential family planning services used by millions of women and men across the country.

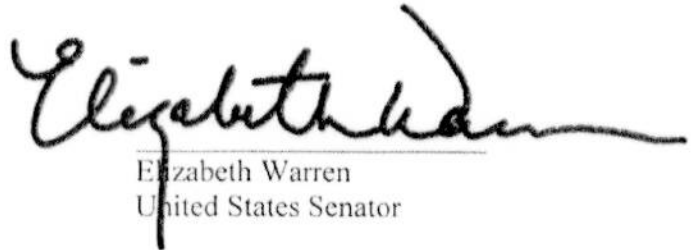
We should not be turning our back on this critical program that so many men and women rely on for critical health care services. Funding Title X is not only the right thing to do, it is also the fiscally responsible thing to do – every dollar invested in Title X saves more than seven dollars in Medicaid-related costs. Congress should protect families – and that means preserving access to family planning for every American in need.

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 2017 for the Title X program. We thank you for your consideration of this request.

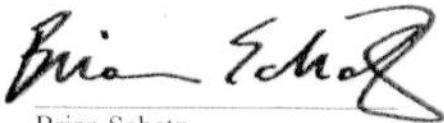
Sincerely,



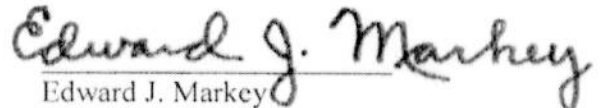
Barbara Boxer
United States Senator



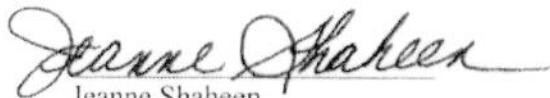
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



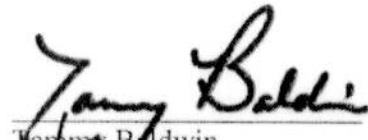
Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



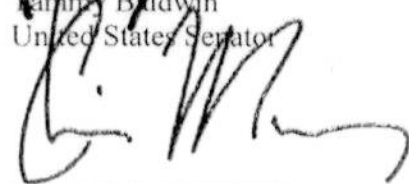
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator




Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



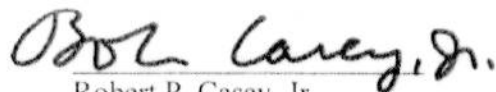
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



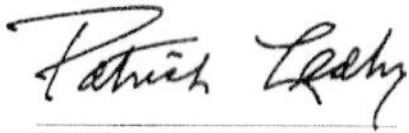
Christopher Murphy
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



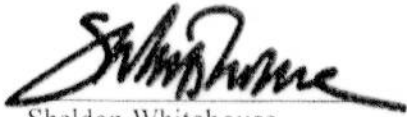
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



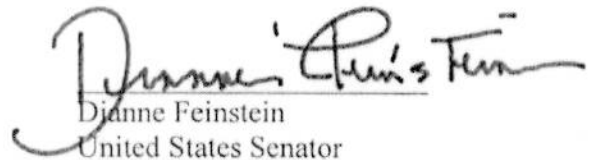
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



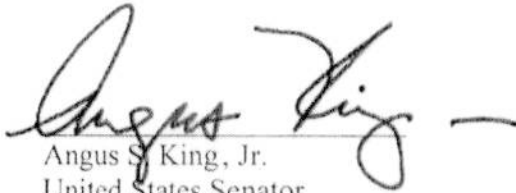
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



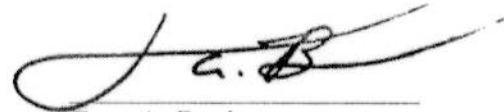
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



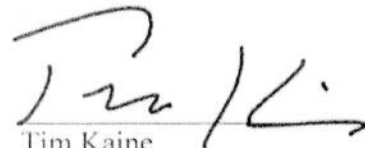
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



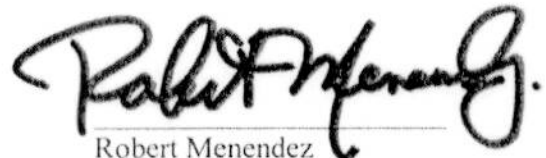
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



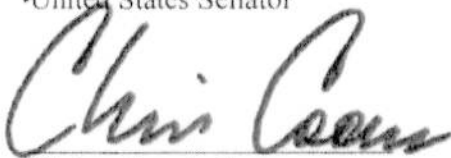
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



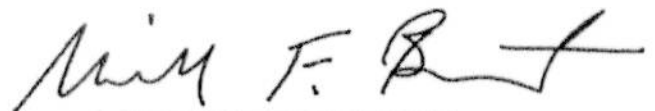
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



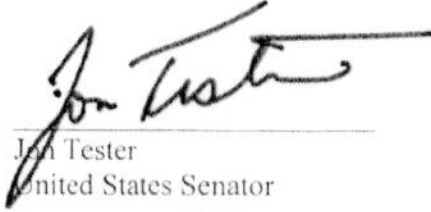
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Michael Bennet
United States Senator



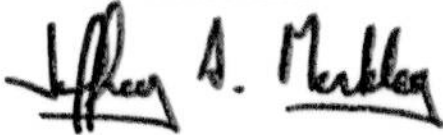
Bill Nelson
United States Senator



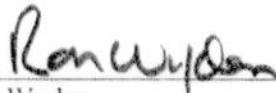
Jon Tester
United States Senator



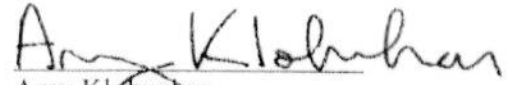
Al Franken
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



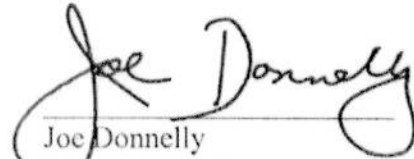
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



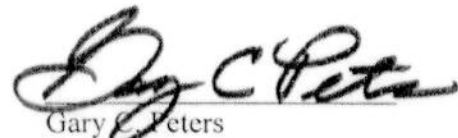
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Joe Donnelly
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator