United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 1, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Leader, U.S. Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0001

Dear Leader McConnell:

We write today with great concern regarding Republican efforts to undermine care at our nation's family planning clinics. For women in every U.S. state and especially in rural and struggling communities, Title X health centers are a vital resource for preventive and primary care. The recent vote in the House[1] to overturn rules protecting Title X health centers[2] would deny women access to this care and permit discrimination against providers. We urge you to protect the health and wellbeing of millions of women by committing not to bring this harmful legislation to the Senate floor.

The Title X family planning provider network is the only federal grant program dedicated solely to providing individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services. In 2015, Title X provided basic primary and preventive health care services such as pap tests, breast exams, and HIV testing to more than four million low-income women and men at over 4,000 health centers.[3] In large part due to this work, the U.S. unintended pregnancy rate is at a 30-year low, and rates of teenage pregnancy are the lowest in our nation's history. The success of the program is dependent on funding that is awarded and available to the most qualified health care providers. Without this assurance, family planning providers lose access to federal family planning resources and in turn have fewer resources to see patients, resulting in less access to care.

The Title X regulation passed during the Obama Administration clarifies and reinforces existing protections in the Title X program to ensure no qualified provider is excluded from eligibility for federal funding, and guarantees that women and LGBT people have access to the care entitled to them under federal law. *H.J. Res. 43 and S.J. Res. 13* are resolutions of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act, which would overturn this important regulation, limiting access to care for women and permitting discrimination against family planning providers.

Multiple health care providers made clear that discrimination against any health care provider is wrong, and have come out opposed to legislative efforts to overturn the Title X regulation. These include the American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Nurse-Midwives, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses, and the American Association of Family Physicians. In their statement, these

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[1] H.J. Res 43, 230-188, Roll Call Vote 89 (02/16/17).
[2] https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/12/19/2016-30276/compliance-with-title-x-requirements-by-project-recipients-in-selecting-subrecipients
[3] https://www.hhs.gov/opa/sites/default/files/title-x-fpar-2015.pdf

providers note the danger of permitting such discrimination between different health care providers, noting, "the move would further reduce, and in many cases eliminate, low-income and adolescent patient's access to essential health care by discriminating against providers for reasons unrelated to medical evidence or best practices".[4] A list of organizations opposing this measure is attached for your awareness.

Family planning services, like those provided at Planned Parenthood and other family planning centers, should be available to all women, no matter where they live or how much money they make. It is critical that you take a stand and protect women's health against efforts to undermine reproductive health care and roll back women's health advances.

Sincerely,

Patty Murray
United States Senator

Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

[4] Letter, February 15, 2017, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Nurse-Midwives, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses; Comment letter, : Title X ACOG-AAFP-AAP Letter FINAL, October 07, 2016 *available* at: https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=HHS-OS-2016-0014-13798 .

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

Al Franken
United States Senator

Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

Bill Nelson
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Jon Tester
United States Senator

Tom Udall
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Organizations

- American Academy of Pediatrics
- American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
- American College of Nurse-Midwives
- American Psychological Association
- American Public Health Association
- Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
- Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics, and Neonatal Nurses
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)
- Physicians for Reproductive Health
- Abortion Care Network
- Advocates for Youth
- AIDS Foundation of Chicago
- AIDS United
- American Association of University Women
- American Civil Liberties Union
- American Medical Student Association
- American Society for Reproductive Medicine
- Anti-Defamation League
- Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
- Cascades AIDS Project
- Catholics for Choice
- Center for Reproductive Rights
- CHOICES- Memphis Center for Reproductive Health
- Feminist Majority Foundation
- Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of American, Inc.
- HIV Medicine Association
- Human Rights Campaign
- Human Rights Watch
- Ibis Reproductive Health
- In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda
- Institute for Science and Human Values
- Methodist Federation for Social Action
- NARAL Pro-Choice America
- Nashville CARES
- National Abortion Federation
- National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
- National Center for Lesbian Rights
- National Coalition of STD Directors

- National Council of Jewish Women
- National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
- National Health Law Program
- National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
- National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund
- National Organization for Women
- National Partnership for Women & Families
- National Women's Health Network
- National Women's Law Center
- People For the American Way
- Planned Parenthood Federation of America
- Population Connection Action Fund
- Population Institute
- Positive Women's Network- USA
- Project Inform
- Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need
- Religious Institute
- Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
- Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
- The Black Women's Health Imperative
- The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
- The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy
- The United Methodist Church, Church and Society
- Trust for America's Health
- Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
- United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
- URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
- Voices for Progress