

July 3, 2019

Senator Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee of Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Senate Committee of Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairman Blunt, Vice Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Murray:

As health professional organizations that are committed to improving access to medically accurate, comprehensive health care services, we respectfully urge you to include language in the FY 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education (LHHS) Appropriations bill to support the Title X Family Planning program and ensure that no funds are used to implement the Administration's final rule. This language, which is included in the House-passed bill, would allow for Title X to continue serving a critical role in ensuring that over four million low-income women and men and adolescents have access to comprehensive family planning and preventive health care services each year.

Title X is the only federal program exclusively dedicated to providing low-income and adolescent patients with access to family planning and preventive health services and information. Federally funded Title X facilities provide access to health and cancer screenings, well woman exams, contraception, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. It is of utmost importance that the integrity of the Title X program is preserved and that Congress reject any efforts that limit access to medically accurate information or interfere in the patient-provider relationship.

We therefore respectfully urge you to include language in the FY 2020 LHHS Appropriations bill to specify:

That the Secretary shall carry out section 1001 of the Public Health Service Act (PHS Act) solely in accordance with any regulations or other conditions or instructions established by the Secretary pursuant to the authority under section 1006 of the PHS Act that applied as of January 18, 2017, to grants and contracts awarded under section 1001 of the PHS Act.

Inclusion of this language in the Senate LHHHS Appropriations bill will help safeguard the more than 40 percent of Title X patients at risk of losing access to critical primary and preventive care services if the Title X final rule were implemented, and ensure those served by Title X continue to receive medically accurate information.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians & Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Medical Association
American Osteopathic Association
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychological Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology
Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine