



March 4th, 2021

The Honorable Norris Cochran
Secretary (Acting)
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Cochran:

As co-chairs of the Pennsylvania Women's Health Caucus, we write to request that you restore Title X's mandate to provide comprehensive family planning services. We cannot overestimate the importance of an immediate and timely review of the current regulations (42 CFR Part 59) for the Title X family planning program, as directed by President Biden in his January 28, 2021 Presidential Memorandum on Protecting Women's Health at Home and Abroad. In addition, we request The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services take action to suspend enforcement of the former president's regulations and issue an Interim Final Rule within 30 days. We strongly support reinstatement of the regulations that governed the Title X program prior to 2019.

The first step in rebuilding Title X and upholding the much needed commitment to expansive access to women's healthcare is to remove the restrictions imposed by the Trump Administration. By instituting medically unnecessary restrictions that prohibited providers from offering comprehensive healthcare, roughly one in every four Title X providers withdrew from the program and continued to provide real healthcare. To make up for the lost funds, providers were forced to cut staff, charge patients more, limit service hours, or close their operation. It is no surprise the number of patients served across the country fell by 21%. The Title X program disproportionately serves communities of color and people with low incomes, both of whom have been and continue to be heavily impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Limited access to family planning services seriously compounds the negative health consequences in those communities.

Every woman deserves access to a full range of reproductive healthcare. Title X family planning services provide necessary medical care to those who otherwise could not access it. These services include contraception, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and breast and cervical cancer screenings to low-income people. The restrictions on Title X funded health centers have removed the only opportunity to receive care for far too many women. Reinstating the rules in place prior to 2019 would dramatically increase equitable access to care.

Thank you for reviewing this request, and we hope the Biden Administration moves swiftly to improve access to women's healthcare.

Sincerely,



Rep. Mary Jo Daley

Rep. Morgan Cephas

Sen. Judy Schwank

Sen. Amanda Cappelletti

WHC co-chair

WHC co-chair

WHC co-chair

WHC co-chair

Cc: U.S. Sen. Bob Casey

U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey

U.S. Rep Brian Fitzpatrick

U.S. Rep Brendan Boyle

U.S. Rep Dwight Evans

U.S. Rep Madeleine Dean

U.S. Rep Mary Gay Scanlon

U.S. Rep Chrissy Houlahan

U.S. Rep Susan Wild

U.S. Rep Matt Cartwright

U.S. Rep Dan Meuser

U.S. Rep Scott Perry

U.S. Rep Lloyd Smucker

U.S. Rep Fred Keller

U.S. Rep John Joyce

U.S. Rep Guy Reschenthaler

U.S. Rep Glenn Thompson

U.S. Rep Mike Kelly

U.S. Rep Connor Lamb

U.S. Rep Mike Doyle