



June 1, 2018

**Open Letter from the Reproductive Freedom Leadership Council Regarding President Trump's Decision to Limit Title X Family Planning Funding**

As members of the Reproductive Freedom Leadership Council (RFLC), a cohort of 274 state legislators representing 43 states, we oppose the latest effort from the Trump administration to roll back reproductive rights and harm women's health. President Trump's proposed rule to block access to health care under Title X, our nation's birth control and reproductive health program, and deny women information about their full reproductive health care options is unacceptable, and we stand united in opposition to this decision. President Trump's gag rule would block health care providers from receiving federal Title X funding if they provide abortion care or offer referrals to other providers of abortion services.

We've borne witness to the harmful impacts of the over 400 restrictions on abortion that have passed in states since 2011, and know that creating additional barriers for patients seeking access to birth control and other services from their trusted reproductive health care providers does us all a grave disservice.

We see this gag rule for what it is: a clear attempt to take away our rights, make both abortion care and birth control harder to access, and drive yet another wedge between health care providers and their patients – all to pay back a political promise President Trump made to the anti-abortion lobby.

We believe it is our duty as elected officials to make it easier, not harder, for people to get the health care they need, including birth control, cancer screenings, STD testing and treatment, and general women's health exams. We trust women to make their own health care decisions in consultation with medical professionals, without interference from politicians.

We also strongly believe that everyone deserves the right to information about their health care - including information about safe, legal abortion – regardless of their race, income, or where they live.

We stand with the 4 million people who are served each year by the Title X program, with the medical community who oppose this rule, and the 73 percent of Americans who oppose administrative action that blocks patients from accessing abortion care.

We will fight this effort to prevent women from getting the full, accurate health care information they need, and will continue to work in our states to advance true reproductive freedom.

Signed,

Members of the Reproductive Freedom Leadership Council

*The [Reproductive Freedom Leadership Council](#) (RFLC) is a first-of-its-kind national network of state legislators committed to embracing leadership on reproductive rights. The RFLC is made up of 274 legislators from 43 states who are committed to promoting a bold, unapologetic stance in favor of abortion rights and their role in state legislatures to protect and advance those rights. The RFLC is a project of the State Innovation Exchange (SiX).*



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