

PROTECT TITLE X



PROTECT ACCESS TO WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE

Defeat Attempts to Cut Title X Funding and to Eliminate Title X Family Planning Care at Planned Parenthood

SUMMARY: Rep. Mike Pence's (R-IN-06) "Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act" (H.R. 217) would have a devastating impact on women's and rural health by denying health centers across the country federal funding (through the Title X family planning program) for preventive care, including family planning, annual exams, lifesaving cancer screenings, contraception visits, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

The new leadership in the House of Representatives took control on a promise to create jobs, but instead, they are promoting the Pence bill, which would cut millions of American women off from their source of primary care. At a time when more and more women and families are facing economic difficulties and need affordable, accessible health care more than ever before, Congress should be doing everything it can to ensure that women have access to their trusted providers.

A recent Hart Research poll could not be more clear, showing that 71 percent of all voters, including 60 percent of voters who voted for the Republican candidate for Congress in 2010, disagree with the Pence bill's restrictions on federal funding.

Since 1970, the Title X (ten) Family Planning Program has been a key component of our nation's health care infrastructure and an essential element in the strategy to reduce unintended pregnancies. Today, Title X serves over five million low-income individuals every year. In every state, women and men rely on Title X for basic primary and preventive health care. In fact, six in ten women who access care from a family planning health center consider it to be their main source of health care.¹

Yet, in spite of the critical role the program has played in our nation's health care system for over 40 years, Title X continues to be woefully underfunded — and its current funding is coming under serious attack in the 112th Congress.

1. R. Gold, Rachel Benson, et al. (2009). *Next Steps for America's Family Planning Program: Leveraging the Potential of Medicaid and Title X in an Evolving Health Care System*. New York: Guttmacher Institute.

Here are the facts:

FACT: Instead of focusing on improving the economy and creating jobs, House leadership is pushing an extreme ideological agenda that would take away health care from women.

Rep. Pence's proposal would mean that millions of women who rely on Planned Parenthood health centers for their primary and preventive health care would lose it, including annual exams, lifesaving cancer screenings, contraception visits, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

- More than 90 percent of the health care Planned Parenthood health centers offer each year is preventive: nearly one million lifesaving screenings for cervical cancer, 830,000 breast exams, contraception to nearly 2.5 million patients and nearly four million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.
- For more than 90 years, Planned Parenthood's doctors, nurses, and other health professionals have been providing health care to millions of women. One in five American women has received care from a Planned Parenthood health center at some point in her life, and one in four American women voters has received care from Planned Parenthood at some point in her life.
- Proposals from groups such as the Heritage Foundation target Title X funding in its entirety, as well as Title V maternal and child health and rural health care, taking away access to basic health care for millions who depend on these programs.
- Federal law already prohibits Title X funds from being spent on any abortion services. All Title X funding goes to preventive services, including cancer screenings and family planning services.

FACT: The Title X Family Planning Program provides essential health care for millions of Americans, and is proven to help reduce the number of unintended pregnancies in this country.

- The Title X program serves over five million predominantly low-income individuals in every state each year with comprehensive family planning services as well as a wide range of other preventive health care, including:
 - breast exams and instruction on breast self-examination
 - Pap tests for early detection of cervical cancer or precancerous conditions
 - testing for high blood pressure
 - screening and appropriate treatment for sexually transmitted infections
 - HIV screening
 - counseling
 - referrals to specialized health care
- Low-income women are currently four times more likely to face an unintended pregnancy. 85 percent of Title X clients have incomes at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty level, and 66 percent are uninsured.ⁱ
- Title X services are incredibly effective, helping to prevent nearly one million unintended pregnancies each year, almost half of which would otherwise end in abortion.
- For every public dollar invested in family planning, \$3.74 is saved in Medicaid-related costs.ⁱⁱ That's savings to both federal and state governments.

i. Data from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Office of Population Affairs: <http://www.hhs.gov/opa/familyplanning/index.html>

ii. Frost, Jennifer J., et al. (2010). *Contraceptive Needs and Services: National and State Data, 2008 Update*. New York: Guttmacher Institute.

FACT: Planned Parenthood is an invaluable Title X provider and is critical to achieving the goals of the program: to improve women's health, lower the rate of unintended pregnancies, and decrease infant mortality. In some states, Planned Parenthood is the only Title X provider.

- For many women, especially those in rural areas and other communities with few health care providers, Planned Parenthood is the only source of health care. Many of these women could face tremendous difficulties in finding other health care providers able and willing to deliver the high-quality reproductive health care required of Title X, including cancer screenings and family planning services. As a result, many women will be at an increased risk of undetected cancer and unintended pregnancy.
- Planned Parenthood is fundamental to the success of the Title X family planning program. Planned Parenthood provides family planning care to 36 percent of the women served by the Title X program (1.7 million women). Without Planned Parenthood operating in this key role as a family planning safety net provider, the Title X program would fail miserably at its goal of improving women's health, lowering the rate of unintended pregnancies and decreasing infant mortality and morbidity.
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