

WHAT IS TITLE X?

Title X, established in 1970, is the nation's only federal domestic program focused solely on providing people with family planning services.

WHAT SERVICES DOES TITLE X PROVIDE?

Services include basic preventative care for things like birth control, STI testing and treatment, and cancer screenings.

Contraceptive services at Title X clinics averted over 800,000 unintended pregnancies, thereby preventing almost 400,000 unplanned births and almost 300,000 abortions. (1)

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Without Title X funding, the rate of unintended pregnancies, unplanned births, and abortions would have been 31% higher and, for teens, that rate would have been 44% higher. (2)



(1) Guttmacher Institute, "6.2 Million U.S. Women Obtained Contraceptive Services From Publicly Funded Clinics in 2015," available at <https://www.guttmacher.org/news-release/2017/62-million-us-women-obtained-contraceptive-services-publicly-funded-clinics-2015>.

(2) Ibid.

WHO DOES THE PROGRAM PRIMARILY SERVE?

Title X provides quality family planning and reproductive health care to women with and without insurance. Most patients are uninsured or ineligible for Medicaid. (3)

The program serves 4 million people each year -- many of whom would otherwise be unable to access health care. (4)

Black and Hispanic/Latina women represent over half of all Title X clients and therefore would be disproportionately impacted by this proposed rule. (5)



(3) Jamila Taylor, "The Threat to Title X Family Planning," Center for American Progress, February 9, 2017, available at <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/women/reports/2017/02/09/414773/the-threat-to-title-x-family-planning/>.

(4) Planned Parenthood, "Title X: The Nation's Program for Affordable Birth Control and Reproductive Health Care," available at <https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/issues/health-care-equity/title-x>.

(5) National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, "Title X Fact Sheet," available at <https://www.nationalfamilyplanning.org/file/Title-X-101-February-2017-final.pdf>.

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF GAG RULES?

1988 President Reagan issued a similar gag rule, barring Title X grantees from providing counseling or referrals for abortion to their patients. The administration was immediately sued by several organizations, including NFPRHA, and the rule was held up in court.

1993 President Clinton issued a presidential memorandum to rescind the gag rule.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSED RULE DO?

- Through this rule, the Trump-Pence administration will deny millions of women access to safe, reliable, and medically accurate family planning and reproductive health care services and would decimate the Title X provider network. (6)
- The proposed rule would prohibit Title X providers from discussing abortion as an option for pregnant women or providing women with abortion referrals. This rule unfairly penalizes low-income women and women of color who depend on Title X for life-saving health care. This continues to be part of the Trump-Pence administration's attempts to restrict and chip away at access to women's health care at the federal level.



(6) <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/06/01/2018-11673/compliance-with-statutory-program-integrity-requirements>

- The rule would require a financial and physical separation of Title X programs and abortion services (the latter of which is supported by private, non-federal funds). This means that Title X programs and grantees would be prohibited from being housed in the same building or using the same infrastructure as abortion services, imposing huge costs on providers who are already working with limited resources.
- As was foreshadowed in the Title X funding announcement in February and alluded to in HHS Secretary Azar's FY 2019 budget hearings, the rule underscores the need for a broad range of family planning methods as written into the Title X statute and emphasizes the role that natural family planning providers should play. This is part of a strategy to fundamentally undermine the Title X program as we know it and focus federal funding and support for natural family planning and abstinence methods. This would open the door to anti-women entities such as crisis pregnancy centers.
- To further tie up the hands of current Title X providers, the proposed rule would impose onerous application and reporting requirements on sub-grantees and partners as well as additional monitoring and compliance mechanisms specifically related to the misuse of Title X funds.
- The rule would also allow Title X grantees to provide methods and services that are not "medically approved". This would make room for contraceptive methods that have not been FDA-approved and are known for their high failure rates, like natural family planning (e.g., the rhythm method) and abstinence-only education.
- The proposed rule would require Title X providers to encourage the family participation of minors seeking contraception or other family planning services.

WHO IS LEADING THE OFFICE THAT MANAGES THE TITLE X PROGRAM?

On May 29, Diane Foley was installed as the new head of the Office of Population Affairs at HHS, which manages and administers the Title X program. (7)

Previously, Foley ran Life Network, a Christian organization that operates two crisis pregnancy centers in Colorado. Life Network receives support from Focus on the Family, another organization that is against certain forms of contraception like IUDs. (8)

Foley believes that a woman's choice to have a child "occur[s] before the pregnancy" – conveniently ignoring the fact that almost half of all pregnancies in the U.S. are unplanned. (9) (10)

She also ran Life Network's "Education for a Lifetime" program, which provides abstinence-only education to public middle and high school students. She said that the program did not offer condom demonstrations because she considers them too complicated and "sexually harassing". (11)

Foley believes that abortions are unsafe and bad for women's health because of a supposed lack of supervision and regulation. (12)

(7) <https://rewire.news/article/2018/05/30/trumps-hhs-installs-fake-clinic-leader-oversee-family-planning-funds/>.

(8) Ibid.

(9) Ibid.

(10) <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/unintended-pregnancy-united-states>

(11) <https://splinternews.com/an-anti-choice-grifter-now-has-the-keys-to-women-s-health-1826455951>

(12) <https://news.vice.com/article/the-battle-over-abortion-could-make-a-big-difference-in-colorado-this-election>