

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 11, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

For nearly 60 years, the Title X Family Planning Program (“Title X”) has provided millions of working Americans with access to family planning and essential preventive care services, like cancer screenings. Congress recently renewed its longstanding support for the program in the latest funding package. But under your leadership, the Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) has so far failed to release annual funding for Title X clinics across the country, as it ordinarily would have by this point in the year. Existing awards are set to lapse on March 31, 2026, and any loss of congressionally appropriated Title X funding will hurt millions of patients and significantly weaken communities’ access to comprehensive family planning services. As such, we demand that the Department take immediate action to protect Americans’ uninterrupted access to these critical services by awarding a one-year full funding extension for all current Title X grantees.

Title X is the only dedicated source of funding for domestic family planning services and preventive health care. Since its establishment in 1970, this program has provided vital reproductive health care services to patients at little to no cost, covering services like contraception, cervical cancer screenings, sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment, and pregnancy testing and counseling. Access to these services improves health outcomes, resulting in lower maternal and infant mortality, fewer premature births, and lower rates of cancer.¹ In short, these services not only make our communities healthier, but also improve educational and economic attainment for women and their families.² Title X funding also saves taxpayer dollars elsewhere in the health care system, with every dollar spent on public funding for family planning programs saving at least seven dollars in Medicaid costs.³

In 2022, HHS awarded five-year grants to over 85 Title X grant recipients to deliver affordable, patient-centered family planning and preventive health services across the United States and its territories. Without immediate action, funding for grants will lapse on March 31, 2026. Title X grantees were told that non-compete continuation application guidance was required to be released by HHS no later than December 31, 2025. As of current date, that guidance has not been released, creating widespread uncertainty for grantees, patients, and providers with less than a month of funding remaining. If the administration fails to meet the April 1, 2026, deadline for

¹ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/B09437>

² https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/2013a_bailey.pdf

³ <https://www.gutmacher.org/news-release/2015/publicly-funded-family-planning-yields-numerous-positive-health-outcomes-while>

releasing Title X funding to the current grantees, the repercussions for critical health care will be catastrophic. Any gap in Title X funding could result in over two million patients losing access to contraception and preventative care, worsen maternal health outcomes, and increase sexually transmitted infections. It will also risk layoffs of essential health care providers and staff who provide care for patients at thousands of Title X clinics nationwide, worsening the national maternal and reproductive health care crisis.

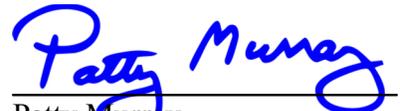
These harms are not hypothetical. In 2019, the first Trump administration finalized regulations, which had lasting consequences for the program. Over 1,000 clinics became ineligible for funding. Last April, the Trump administration withheld all or partial funding from a quarter of all Title X grantees for months, cutting off over 840,000 patients' access to contraceptive care and forcing Title X sites to close.⁴ When funding was finally restored, clinics were forced to try to meet the same need but with significantly reduced funding.

This delay is already causing costly uncertainty for clinics across the country and the patients that they serve. A lapse in funding caused by this administration would deny patients and their families the dignity of affordable health care and irreparably worsen the health care crisis that President Trump and Republicans in Congress have already exacerbated by enacting the largest cuts to health care in American history. It is imperative that the Department act now and issue a one-year extension of Title X funding.

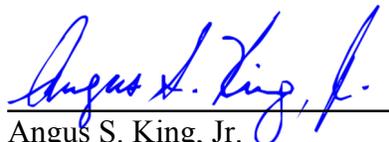
Sincerely,



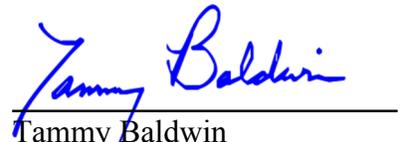
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

⁴ <https://www.kff.org/womens-health-policy/title-x-grantees-and-clinics-affected-by-the-trump-administrations-funding-freeze/>


Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator


Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator


Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator


Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator


Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

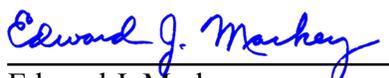

Ruben Gallego
United States Senator


Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator


Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator


Alex Padilla
United States Senator


Cory A. Booker
United States Senator


Edward J. Markey
United States Senator


John Fetterman
United States Senator


Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator


Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



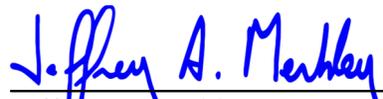
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



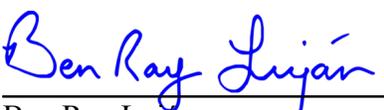
Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



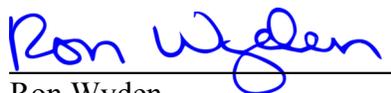
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



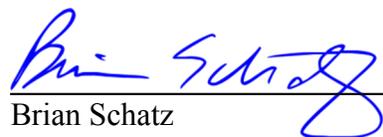
Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator