

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write with great concern regarding the withholding of Title X family planning funding, impacting approximately one million patients in 23 states. We are alarmed at the Trump administration's attacks against providers that enable access to health care for low-income and uninsured people. We urge you to swiftly reinstate funding to avoid extended gaps in service for vulnerable communities who rely on Title X funded health centers and programs.

For the past 55 years, Title X has served as the nation's only dedicated, federally-funded family planning program. It provides lifelines to essential health care, including cancer screenings, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, contraceptive services and supplies, pregnancy testing, and more. Importantly, Title X providers offer care to all people, regardless of their ability to pay. In fact, 60 percent of patients seeking care at Title X funded health centers have incomes below 101 percent of the federal poverty level and receive care at no cost.¹ Altogether, in 2023, Title X supported health care services for 2.8 million patients at 3,853 health centers across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories.² Freezing Title X funds puts millions at risk of losing basic health services and screenings. A 2024 report from the HHS Office of Population Affairs determined that there "remains a significant need for publicly funded programs to provide free or subsidized sexual and reproductive health [SRH] services."³

Despite its vast impact, on April 1, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services began withholding all, most, or a substantial portion of Title X funding in 23 states, and all other grantees received partial awards. These states span from coast to coast and the non-contiguous states, covering nearly a quarter of the nation's Title X network. You have entirely cut access to Title X family planning services for California, Hawaii, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, and Utah; and your agency is making significant cuts to Title-X funded services in Alaska, Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. All other grantees have received partial funding which significantly constrains planned staffing and service delivery this performance year.

The notifications were premised on specious arguments and contain unreasonable deadlines given the hundreds of health centers that must be surveyed in order to respond to this

¹ Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Population Affairs. 2023. "2023 Title X Family Planning Annual Report: Title X Providers Continue to Rebuild and Grow." <https://opa.hhs.gov/about/news/e-updates/2023-title-x-family-planning-annual-report-title-x-providers-continue-rebuild>.

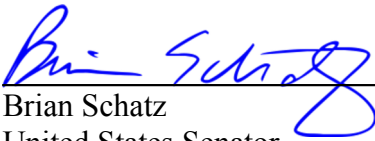
² "2023 Title X Family Planning Annual Report: Title X Providers Continue to Rebuild and Grow."


³ Marina Mileo Gorzig, Brian Goesling, and Kerry Schellenberger. 2024. "Review of The Need for Free or Subsidized Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in The U.S.: Updated Estimates." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Population Affairs. <https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2024-12/opa-cost-study-srh-services.pdf>


politically motivated inquiry. Though the administration has explicitly targeted specific providers like Planned Parenthood affiliates, it also included a varied group of nonprofit state and regional grantees.

These interruptions will be widely felt in our communities and exacerbate the country's maternal health crisis, particularly in the context of health center closures and restrictive state policies that impact access to reproductive care. By withholding critical appropriated funds, you are impeding access to essential health care services in rural and underserved areas, risking providers closing their doors, and jeopardizing working families' lives and livelihoods. We request that you expeditiously release funding to Title X grantees in the 23 impacted states before you cause irreparable harm.


Sincerely,

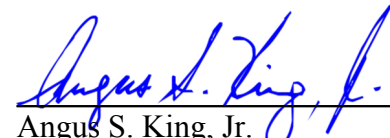

Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

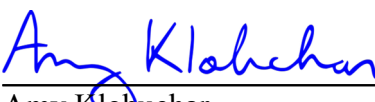

Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

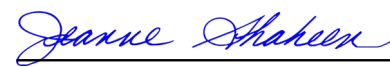

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

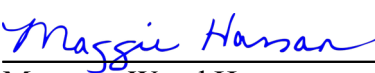

Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

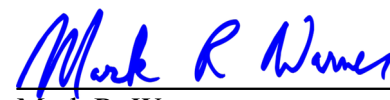

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

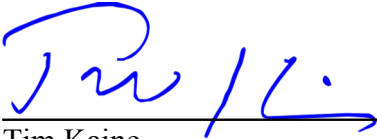

Richard Blumenthal
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Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

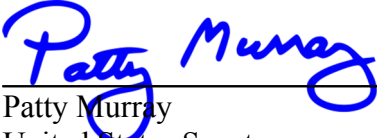

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Mark R. Warner
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Tim Kaine
United States Senator



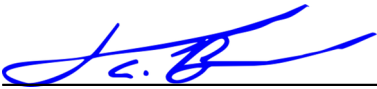
Patty Murray
United States Senator



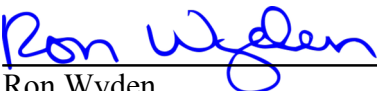
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



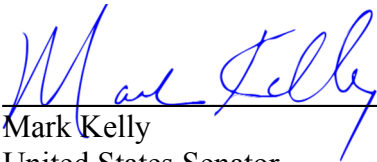
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



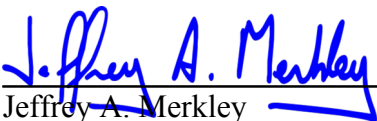
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United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
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Maria Cantwell
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Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



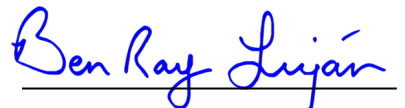
Andy Kim
United States Senator



Angela Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator