

# Family Planning Coalition

---

c/o National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
1627 K St. NW, 12th Floor Washington, DC 20006 Tel: 202-293-3114 Fax: 202-293-1990

March 31, 2009

Dear [House and Senate Appropriators, Pro]:

The undersigned organizations are writing to request \$700 million in funds for the Title X family planning program in Fiscal Year 2010. We thank the Committee for their leadership in providing a \$7.5 million increase for Title X in the FY 2009 Omnibus Appropriations bill; however, providers are still struggling, and with millions of low-income men and women still in need of services, a significant new investment in Title X is warranted.

A 2005 government review of Title X family planning services confirmed that the program serves a unique and valuable purpose, is cost-effective, and is effectively managed. Nevertheless, funding continues to fall well short of what is needed to meet the current demand for services, much less keep up with inflation, medical advances, and a growing population of uninsured Americans. In fact, according to the Guttmacher Institute, had Title X funding kept up with inflation since FY 1980, it would now be funded at \$787 million.

Widespread use of family planning services continues to be a critical component of basic preventive health care for women, and historically has been a driving force in reducing unintended pregnancies, STIs, and the need for abortion. Contraceptive use has also led to dramatic declines in maternal and infant mortality rates and has vastly improved maternal and infant health. Unfortunately, many American women do not have access to affordable family planning services, and as a result, low-income women are four times more likely to experience an unplanned pregnancy than higher-income women, the Guttmacher Institute reports.

Today, approximately 17.5 million women and men need publicly supported contraceptive care. Given the current economic downturn and the rising number of uninsured, the number of those in need of publicly supported care will continue to grow. Many of these women and men rely on Title X to provide high-quality family planning services and other preventive health care they could otherwise not afford and likely would not get.

Title X is a vital part of our nation's public health infrastructure, serving nearly five million low-income women and men at more than 4,500 state and county health departments, non-profit health care centers, hospital-based clinics, family planning councils, and Planned Parenthood affiliates. Title X services help women and men plan the number and timing of their pregnancies, thereby helping to prevent nearly one million unintended pregnancies each year, nearly half of which would otherwise end in abortion. In addition to providing contraceptive services and supplies, Title X clinics provide basic preventive health services, education and counseling. For example, in 2007, Title X centers provided Pap tests for 2.2 million women, and 2.4 million clinical breast exams.

While Title X is one of the nation's best and most cost-effective public health success stories, without additional funding, Title X-funded health centers will be unable to meet the growing demand for care or continue to provide quality preventive health services. The cost of contraceptives has increased exponentially over the past several years, wreaking havoc on clinic budgets. Prior to a significant price increase in 2006, a survey by the Guttmacher Institute found that Title X expenditures on contraceptive supplies increased by an average of 26 percent over three years, while the corresponding Title X grants only increased by an average of 11 percent.

Additionally, as educational requirements and salaries have increased over the years and the nursing shortage has sharpened, health centers face difficulties in recruiting and retaining all types of clinical staff, including physicians, physicians' assistants, midwives, nurse practitioners, nurses, medical assistants and pharmacists.

Since 1970, Title X has been a critical component of our national health care delivery system. Despite the adversity facing Title X-funded providers, they have continued to deliver high-quality services to those most in need. Now is the time to recognize and support this vibrant service delivery system. We urge you to invest in effective programs like Title X that promote public health and at the same time save tax dollars. ***For every public dollar invested in Title X, \$4.02 is saved in labor, delivery and pre-natal care costs to the Medicaid program.***

We thank you for your past support for efforts to improve health care access for all women. We hope that you will continue to work towards improving women's health by providing \$700 million in funding for the Title X family planning program as a minimal investment in basic health care for low-income women. Thank you for your consideration.

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
Americans for Democratic Action  
American Public Health Association  
American Society for Reproductive Medicine  
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals  
Center for Women Policy Studies  
Child Welfare League of America  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Women's Health Network  
National Women's Law Center  
Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Population Connection  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)  
Sierra Club

Society for Adolescent Medicine  
Union for Reform Judaism