

PROTECT WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECT PLANNED PARENTHOOD®



Reject Attempts to Eliminate Funding for the Title X Family Planning Program and Planned Parenthood

House leadership and Rep. Mike Pence (R-IN-06) have made their agenda for this country abundantly clear: target women's health care programs and women's health providers under the guise of deficit reduction. The House Republican leadership's latest proposal is to completely eliminate the Title X (ten) family planning program, an essential national program that provides lifesaving, preventive care to millions of women each year and saves taxpayers money.

In addition, Rep. Pence's proposal to exclude Planned Parenthood from **all** critical public health funding streams will only hurt Americans — taking away health care that millions of women receive today. Rep. Pence's proposal is an unprecedented, ideological attack on a specific health care provider that will result in more women losing access to the very basic health care they need. **Eliminating the national family planning program (Title X) and federal funding for Planned Parenthood is bad policy and bad politics. That's why we urge Congress to reject these dangerous proposals.**

Title X Provides Family Planning and Lifesaving Preventive Care to Millions of Individuals Each Year

Since 1970, the Title X Family Planning Program has been a key component of our nation's health care infrastructure and an essential element in the winning 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, including annual exams, lifesaving cancer screenings, contraception, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

Yet, in spite of the critical role the program has played in our nation's health care system for over 40 years, its record of cost savings, and its proven effectiveness as determined by the federal government and prestigious research institutions alike, Title X has come under attack in the 112th Congress. [The House Appropriations Committee's FY11 Continuing Resolution proposes a complete elimination of the Title X program \(currently funded at \\$317 million\) – an all-out assault on women's health cloaked in legitimate concerns about the federal deficit.](#)

- **Title X Prevents Unintended Pregnancies and is Cost-Effective:** 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.¹ That's savings to both federal and state governments.

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

- **Title X Provides Lifesaving and Preventive Care to Millions of Women:** In 2009 alone, Title X providers performed 2.2 million Pap tests, 2.3 million breast exams, and over six million tests for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including nearly a million HIV tests.

Eliminating the national family planning program will result in millions of women across the country losing access to basic primary and preventive health care and to the providers that offer these services. [Simply put, without Title X, more women will experience unintended pregnancies and face potentially life-threatening cancer and other diseases that could have been prevented.](#) Finally, Americans do not support proposals like the one offered by House leadership. The Center for American Progress highlighted a January 2011 CBS/New York Times survey that found that by a margin of 67 percent to 27 percent, Americans oppose cuts for health care and education as a means of reducing the deficit..

Planned Parenthood Health Centers Are Critical Access Points for Women Now and in the Future

In each of the past three Congresses, Rep. Pence has introduced bills that prohibit Title X family planning funding from going to health care providers that separately provide abortion care with private funds, as well as bills that specifically target Planned Parenthood health centers. These past attempts have failed. This year, Rep. Pence has intensified his agenda against Planned Parenthood with a proposal that would eliminate **all** federal funding for Planned Parenthood health centers. Given that six in 10 women who access care from women's health centers like Planned Parenthood health centers consider it to be their main source of health care², Pence's proposal would cut millions of women off from their source of primary and preventive care. For instance, Pence's proposal would cut off the approximately 1.4 million Medicaid patients served by Planned Parenthood from their source of health care.

- **Planned Parenthood Plays a Critical Role in Providing Health Care to Low-Income Americans:** Planned Parenthood's health centers provide primary and preventive health care to three million Americans each year. For many women, and especially those in rural areas and underserved communities, Planned Parenthood is their only source of health care. One in four American women voters has received care from Planned Parenthood at some point in her life. As a result of the Pence amendment, many of these women would face tremendous difficulty finding other health care providers able to deliver the high-quality family planning preventive care that Planned Parenthood offers, placing them at risk of unintended pregnancy and life-threatening diseases.
- **Attacks on Planned Parenthood Undermine Women's Access to the Health Care They Need:** Planned Parenthood health centers are able to stretch scarce resources to provide health care to millions of low-income and uninsured individuals each year. More than 90 percent of the health care Planned Parenthood centers offer each year is preventive. For decades, a number of different federal agencies have recognized the high-quality and high-value services that patients receive at Planned Parenthood health centers and, therefore, have entrusted Planned Parenthood health centers with funding through the following programs:
 - Title X (family planning program)
 - Maternal and Child Health Block Grants
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Grants to prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections and screen for breast and cervical cancer
 - Social Services Block Grants
 - Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
 - Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, among others

2. Gold, Rachel Benson et al. (2010). *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.

It is through the support of these federal programs that Planned Parenthood health centers are able to offer, on an annual basis, nearly one million lifesaving screenings for cervical cancer, 830,000 breast exams, contraception to nearly 2.5 million patients, nearly four million tests and treatments for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, and education programs for nearly 1.2 million individuals, among other important preventive services. Rep. Pence's proposal to eliminate all of this funding for Planned Parenthood health centers would immediately sever a key component of our health care system infrastructure and deny women access to the health care they need.

- **Attacks on Planned Parenthood Cut Off Medicaid Patients from Their Provider — Undermining the Goals of the Health Care Law.**

- Forty-eight percent (approximately 1.4 million) of Planned Parenthood's patients are on Medicaid, and as a direct result of the Pence amendment, they would lose access to their health care provider.
- Thus, the Pence amendment also reverses a long-standing patient protection in Medicaid law that ensures that Medicaid patients can access family planning services with any willing provider.
- Rep. Pence's attack on Medicaid patients' ability to see their provider comes at a time when the Medicaid program desperately needs more health care providers to participate in the program — as existing access issues will only become exasperated as a result of the Medicaid expansion to 133% of the federal poverty level (FPL) under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA).
- According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, eight million women of reproductive age (15-44) are likely to become newly eligible for the Medicaid expansion under health reform, and they will look Planned Parenthood to access primary and preventive care under the program.
- Offering Americans health insurance while simultaneously cutting them off from their health care provider would render ACA expansions in Medicaid coverage meaningless. Now is the time to be supporting the role that women's health centers like Planned Parenthood play in communities across the country — not undermining women's main source of health care at the time that they will need it most.

Investing in commonsense, proven effective prevention and primary health care is not only smart health care policy, but smart politics. In the face of our nation's current health care crisis, Congress must protect funding for the Title X family planning program and for Planned Parenthood health centers.