

Background on the Title X Gag Rule

There are two main provisions in the gag rule that will put health care access at risk for millions of people:

- 1. THE GAG ITSELF:** The gag rule makes it illegal for health care providers in the Title X program to refer patients for an abortion. Censoring and gagging these providers threatens the patient-provider relationship and prevents patients from having information about all of their options. Because of our commitment to ethical patient care, it would be impossible for Planned Parenthood to continue participating in the program. Planned Parenthood serves 41 percent (1.6 million) of the four million people who rely on Title X health center; this rule leaves their health, rights, and lives hanging in the balance.
- 2. PHYSICAL SEPARATION:** This rule also includes onerous “physical separation” requirements specifically designed to block patients from coming to Planned Parenthood which serves 41 percent (1.6 million) of the 4 million people who rely on Title X health centers. This seems to mean a range of cost prohibitive and unnecessary changes, from requiring health centers to build separate entrances and exits, to requiring the construction of whole new health centers, to requiring that health centers hire a whole second staff of doctors, nurses, and administrative staff. Given that Title X already bars federal funds from being used for abortion, the policy is clearly only intended to make it practically impossible for abortion providers to participate in the Title X program.

[The majority of patients in the program identify as people of color, Hispanic, or Latino.](#) This is not an isolated attack — since day one, the Trump-Pence administration has aggressively targeted the health and rights of people of color, poor people, and women.

- **Vice:** [This Is What a White Supremacist Department of Justice Looks Like](#)
- **Time:** [How 3 of Donald Trump's Executive Orders Target Communities of Color](#)
- **The New Yorker:** [The Trump Administration Targets the Poor](#)
- **CNN:** [America's poor becoming more destitute under Trump, UN report says](#)
- **Al Jazeera:** [One year under Trump: 'An assault on women's health'](#)
- **Quartz:** [The Trump administration isn't just curtailing women's rights; it's systematically eroding trust in women](#)

Title X Demographics

- The majority of patients in the program identify as people of color, Hispanic, or Latino.
 - 33% of users identified as Hispanic or Latino (includes some patients in the races listed below + some patients that identify as White + some patients who did not report race but did report ethnicity)
 - 22% identify as Black or African American,
 - 4% identify as Asian
 - 4% percent identify as one or more races
 - 1% identify as either American Indian or Alaska Native
 - 1% identify Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
- 14% have limited proficiency in English and benefit from the requirement that through interpretation and translation
- 65% are under 30 years of age

Planned Parenthood's Role in the Title X Program

- Planned Parenthood serves 41% (1.6 million) of the 4 million people who rely on Title X health centers
- In many communities, Planned Parenthood is the only provider of affordable reproductive health care or the only provider that offers specialized care like an IUD or the birth control shot.
- Even when there are other providers available in a community, they often don't have the capacity to serve additional patients. [Community health centers themselves say there is no way they could fill the gap.](#)
- This could put affordable health care out of reach for many underserved communities, including communities of color and rural communities.

Who Opposes the Gag Rule?

- 73% of Americans
- More than 200 members of Congress
- 15 governors
- 80 mayors
- 274 state legislators
- More than 100 public health organizations
- Overwhelming numbers of doctors, nurses, and other health care providers
- Not to mention the 4 million people who rely on Title X each year

This rule is opposed by the [general public](#), the medical community, lawmakers, and public health experts. When the rule was announced, more than 500,000 Americans voiced their opposition by submitting comments to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.