

BACKGROUND ON TITLE X AND TRUMP'S GAG RULE

Title X is designed to ensure that people struggling to make ends meet can still access birth control, STI testing, cancer screenings, and other essential reproductive health care. Planned Parenthood serves 40 percent (1.5 million) of the 4 million people in the Title X program; the gag rule leaves their health, rights, and lives hanging in the balance.

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, or 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 40 percent (1.5 million) of the four million people who rely on Title X health centers; this rule leaves their health, rights, and lives hanging in the balance.
- 2. BLOCKING ACCESS TO CARE AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD:** The rule imposes cost prohibitive and unnecessary “physical separation” requirements on health centers that also provide abortion. These could include forcing health centers to build separate entrances and exits, construct whole new health centers, or hire a whole second staff of doctors, nurses, and administrative staff. None of these requirements contribute to the health of patients. This policy is clearly only intended to make it practically impossible for health centers like Planned Parenthood to participate in the program — even though Planned Parenthood serves 40 percent (1.5 million) of the 4 million people who rely on Title X health centers.

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.

Planned Parenthood's Irreplaceable Role in the Title X Program

- Planned Parenthood serves 40 percent (1.5 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?

- More than 200 members of Congress
- More than 20 governors
- 80 mayors
- 274 state legislators
- More than 100 provider and public health organizations
- Overwhelming numbers of doctors, nurses, and other health care providers
- Not to mention the 4 million people who obtain care through Title X each year

The rule is opposed by the general public, the medical community, lawmakers, major medical associations, 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.