

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 11, 2019

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray,

As you work to develop the Fiscal Year 2020 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we request that you include \$400 million for the Title X family planning program. Title X health centers rely on this funding in order to provide essential preventive health and family planning services to millions of low-income individuals.

Title X is the only federal program dedicated to providing family planning services for low-income patients and serves more than 4 million people at nearly 4,000 health centers around the country each year. Because of this funding, these centers provide high-quality reproductive and sexual health care, including cancer screenings, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, contraceptive services and supplies, pregnancy testing, complete and medically accurate information about all pregnancy options, and other basic health care. Title X centers offer care to populations that often face severe barriers to accessing quality health care such as people with low incomes, people of color, people in rural areas, and LGBTQ people.

Properly funding Title X is both fiscally responsible and widely supported. Research estimates that more than seven dollars in Medicaid-related costs are saved for every dollar invested in Title X, a net savings of \$7 billion a year for federal and state governments.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, 75% of American adults—including 66% of Republicans, 75% of Independents, and 84% of Democrats—support the program.<sup>2</sup> Supporting and strengthening the program is a smart investment in public health, a fact that has been recognized by members of both parties for nearly 50 years.

Unfortunately, access to Title X services has been seriously jeopardized by funding cuts in recent years. In 2016, researchers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Office of Population Affairs, and George Washington University estimated that Title X would need \$737

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<sup>1</sup> The Milbank Quarterly, “Return on investment: a fuller assessment of the benefits and cost savings of the US publicly funded family planning program,” Frost JJ et al., 2014, <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/enhanced/doi/10.1111/1468-0009.12080/>.

<sup>2</sup> The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, “Survey Says: Birth Control Support,” January 2017, <https://thenationalcampaign.org/resource/survey-says-january-2017>.

million annually to deliver family planning care to all low-income uninsured women in the United States.<sup>3</sup> The gap between funds appropriated and funds needed has continued to grow in recent years: between 2010 and 2014, Congress cut Title X's funding by \$31 million, even though the number of women in need of publicly funded family planning care grew by 1 million in that period.<sup>4</sup> Funding losses have caused Title X health centers to limit services, lay off staff, and scale back hours, all contributing to a dramatic reduction in the number of patients served by Title X.

In addition to funding cuts, Title X's provider network and program integrity have faced unceasing threats over the past two years. On March 4, the Trump administration published a final rule<sup>5</sup> that would detrimentally impact the Title X network and restrict patient care. The administration's new policy includes a domestic "gag rule" that prohibits health care providers from referring patients for all reproductive health options available, even when a patient makes a specific request. Additionally, the rule eliminates the longstanding requirement that Title X providers offer a broad range of medically approved contraception; coerces patients to receive prenatal care referrals regardless of their wishes; imposes onerous physical and financial separation requirements for abortion-related activities; and undermines confidentiality, particularly for minors. The administration's policy disregards medical ethics by directing what providers can offer their patients and threatens access to basic, preventive health care for millions of individuals. As separate efforts progress to stop implementation of this devastating rule, it is critical that Congress unequivocally demonstrate its support for the Title X program in its current form and increase funding for the program.


We ask that you protect this critical program and support the health of millions of Americans by providing \$400 million in FY 2020 for the Title X program. We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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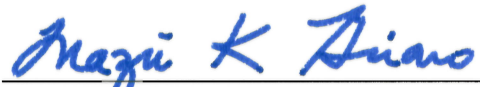
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

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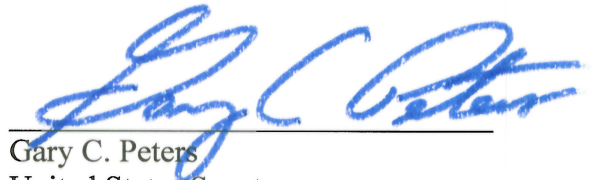
<sup>3</sup> American Journal of Public Health, "Projecting the Unmet Need and Costs for Contraception Services After the Affordable Care Act," Euna August, et al, February 2016, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4985850/>.

<sup>4</sup> Guttmacher Institute, "Contraceptive Needs and Services, 2014 Update," Jennifer Frost, Lori Frohworth and Mia Zolna, September 2016, <https://www.guttmacher.org/report/contraceptive-needs-and-services-2014-update>.


<sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Register Notice, "Compliance with Statutory Program Integrity Requirements." March 4, 2019, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/06/01/2018-11673/compliance-with-statutory-program-integrity-requirements>.



Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senate



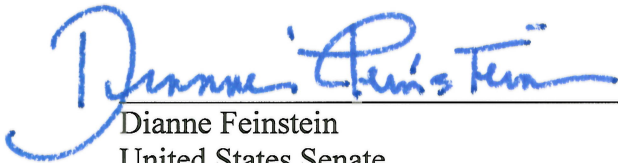
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United States Senate



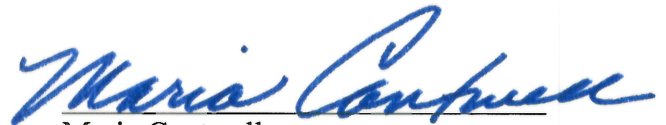
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United States Senate



Jack Reed  
United States Senate



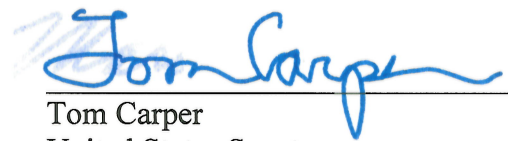
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United States Senate



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senate



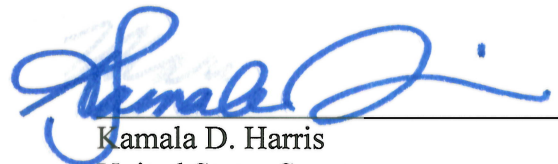
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senate



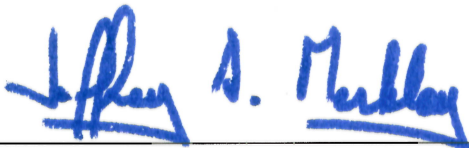
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United States Senate



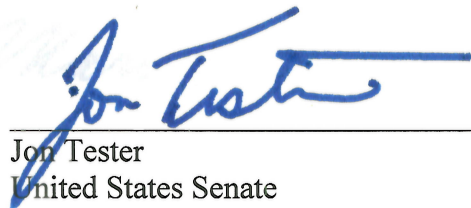
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senate



Kamala D. Harris  
United States Senate



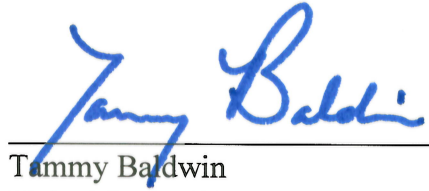
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senate



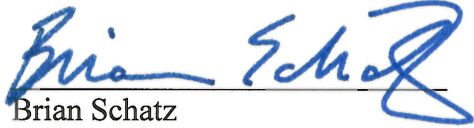
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United States Senate



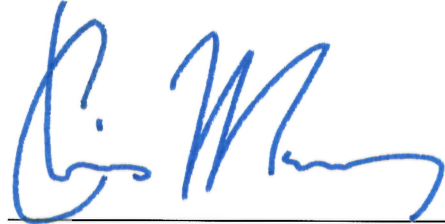
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senate



Tammy Baldwin  
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Brian Schatz  
United States Senate



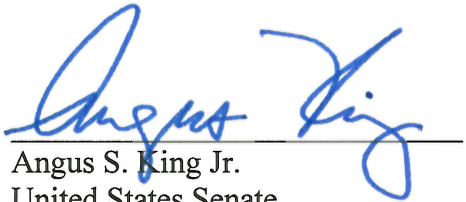
Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senate



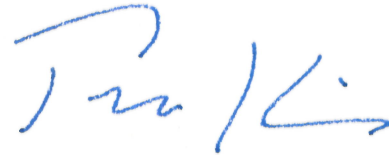
Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senate



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senate



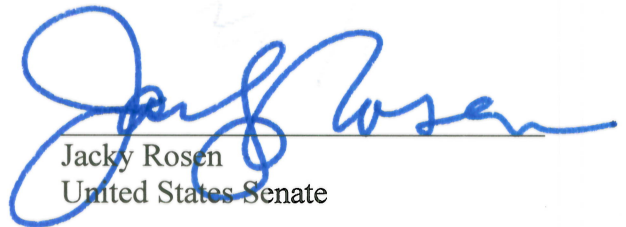
Angus S. King Jr.  
United States Senate



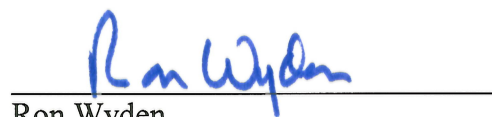
Tim Kaine  
United States Senate



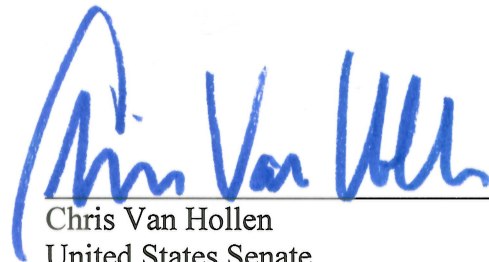
Tina Smith  
United States Senate



Jacky Rosen  
United States Senate



Ron Wyden  
United States Senate



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senate

Mark R Warner

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Mark R. Warner  
United States Senate

Kyrsten Sinema

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Kyrsten Sinema  
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Doug Jones

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Doug Jones  
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Benjamin L. Cardin

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