## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

June 6, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr. Secretary of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

On the 60th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark ruling in *Griswold v. Connecticut*, we write to express our unwavering support for the Title X Family Planning Program (Title X), the only domestic federally-funded program dedicated to family planning. For 60 years, the constitutional right to contraception has been protected by *Griswold v. Connecticut*, empowering millions with the ability to make their own reproductive health care decisions. However, due to the actions of this Administration, reproductive freedom is under threat. The Administration's decision to withhold millions in funding for Title X means low-income individuals have lost access to contraceptive services and supplies. On this landmark anniversary of *Griswold*, it is extremely important to protect Title X and reiterate why it has and should continue to serve as the cornerstone of safety-net care for millions of people.

Title X provides access to contraception to help people avoid pregnancies they do not want, and to plan and space pregnancies they do want, decreasing the risk of complications.<sup>1</sup> This is even more critical for patients who face financial barriers to health care. Title X plays an instrumental role in ensuring patients get the care they need and want without cost being a barrier. In 2023, 83% of clients served by Title X-funded clinics had family incomes at or below 250% of the federal poverty level, with 60% qualifying for free services because they had incomes at or below 100% of the federal poverty level (\$30,000 for a family of four). Among all Title X clients, 27% were uninsured, while 67% of users with some form of health insurance had public insurance coverage.<sup>2</sup> It is no wonder that 60% of women who receive reproductive health care services from Title X providers say it is the only form of health care they receive in a year. The Title X funding, many of these clinics could shutter, ripping access to contraception away from millions.

As we reflect on the significance of *Griswold*, we must not turn a blind eye to the broader mounting threats to our reproductive freedoms. Both contraception and abortion are essential health care services and part of a full range of sexual and reproductive health care that allow

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> <u>Beyond Preventing Unplanned Pregnancy: The Broader Benefits of Publicly Funded Family</u> <u>Planning Services | Guttmacher Institute</u>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Family Planning Annual Report - 2023 National Summary.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> <u>https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-impact-of-medicaid-and-title-x-on-planned-parenthood/</u>.

every American the freedom to make decisions about our own bodies and their own futures. The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* dealt a direct blow to people's privacy rights, access to health care, including imperiling access to contraception. In a world where access to abortion is severely limited or not accessible at all, it is even more important for people who want to prevent pregnancy to be able to affordably and easily access it from trusted family planning providers of their choice. That is why Title X is so important. Title X has historically received broad bipartisan support and has been funded by Congress every year since 1970 because we recognize what *Griswold* holds true: that all individuals should have the freedom to make decisions about their own bodies and lives.

On March 31, 2025, your Department notified 16 Title X grantees — representing networks of health care providers in 23 states — that their funding was being withheld until an investigation over 'possible violations' of grant terms and conditions, specifically federal civil rights laws and executive orders, could be undertaken.<sup>4</sup> More than two months later, these grantees remain without funding and have received no communication from the Administration regarding the status of the investigations, the expected timeline, or the future of their funding. In that time, several of these entities have been forced to furlough or layoff staff, limit available services or charge for services that were previously available to low-income individuals at low or no cost, and shutter health centers. Congress has already appropriated these funds, and the Administration has a responsibility to distribute them without undue delay or obstruction, ensuring that critical care is not disrupted for millions of people who rely on Title X services.

We urge you to restore all appropriated funds for Title X providers and work with Congress to ensure that all people have access to the comprehensive contraception services they seek.

Sincerely,

Josh Gottheimer Member of Congress

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Chair, Contraception, Family Planning & Education Task Force Reproductive Freedom Caucus

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> <u>https://time.com/7273838/trump-administration-freezes-title-x-funding-impact/</u>.

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