

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We write to express our grave concern at the recent actions by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to terminate nearly the entire staff at the Office of Population Affairs (OPA). The OPA oversees the nation's only federal program dedicated to family planning, the Title X program, among other vital reproductive health programs. These firings will severely undermine the functionality of the office, hindering the Title X program's ability to operate effectively, and threatening the loss of health care for many of the millions of people that these programs support annually.

On October 10, all but one of the 50 employees at the OPA lost access to their government email accounts. Five days later, they received confirmation from human resources that they were subject to a reduction in force (RIF).

These RIFs are another example of this Administration's ongoing assault on the Title X program, birth control, and reproductive health care access more broadly. Earlier this year, HHS illegally withheld \$65 million in Congressionally appropriated funding for the Title X program from 16 grantees with grants in 23 states, threatening essential health care access for an estimated 842,000 people, or 30 percent of all Title X patients. Nine of the impacted Title X grantees have yet to have their funding restored seven months later. Many of these affected grantees struggle to sustain the financial burden caused by the extended delay in funding and the ongoing attacks on reproductive health care from this Administration and Congressional Republicans. As a result, they have been forced to close health centers, lay off staff, and reduce available services. As we pass week three of a government shutdown and as Republicans refuse to address the health care crisis they created, the President's FY2026 budget proposal and House Republicans' partisan spending bill would only make the situation worse by seeking to eliminate the Title X program entirely.

For more than 50 years, Title X has served as a cornerstone of safety-net care. Title X-funded health centers are lifelines in their communities, providing high-quality family planning and sexual health care, including cancer screenings, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, HIV testing, contraceptive services and supplies, pregnancy testing, and other essential health care services.

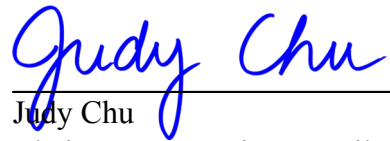
The bipartisan Title X program, championed by then-Congressman George H.W. Bush and signed into law by President Nixon, served 2.8 million people in 2023. For many of those patients, especially in rural and underserved communities, Title X health centers are their only source of health care. In 2023 alone, Title X supported 3,853 health centers across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and U.S. territories. The RIFed OPA employees are essential to administering these grants, and without them clinics will be left without the needed support to continue to provide the Title X program's critical services.

Undermining the federal government's ability to effectively administer the Title X program funds will unquestionably result in the loss of health care for patients who depend on it. The dismantling of the OPA threatens to rip away critical services from millions of Americans at thousands of health centers across the country. We urge you to immediately reinstate the OPA employees so they can continue to carry out their essential functions.

Sincerely,



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



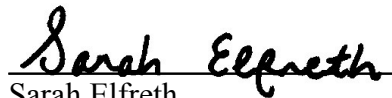
Judy Chu
Chair, Contraception, Family
Planning & Education Task
Force
Pro Choice Caucus



Sharice L. Davids
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Dina Titus
Member of Congress



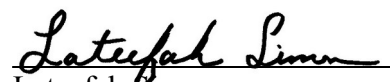
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
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Jim Tokuda
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Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



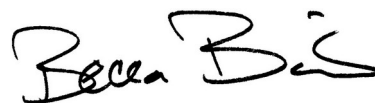
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



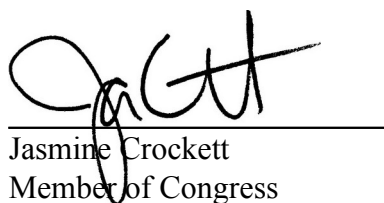
Becca Balint
Member of Congress



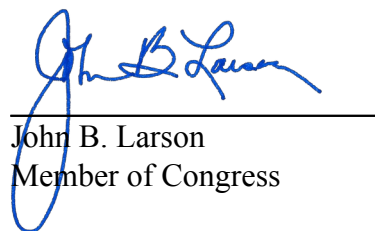
SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



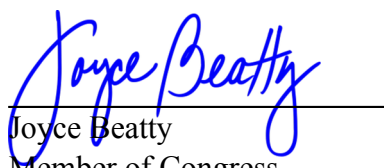
Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



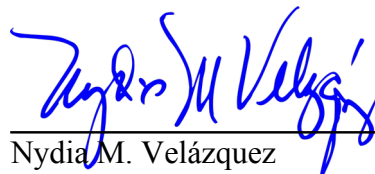
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
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Troy A. Carter, Sr.
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Nydia M. Velázquez
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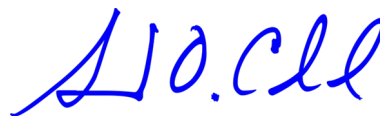
Ed Case
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



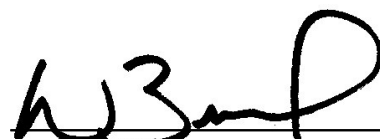
Paul Tonko
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Salud Carbajal
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Stephen F. Lynch
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Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier
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Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



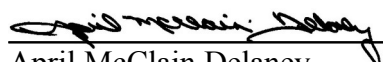
Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



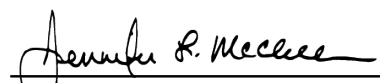
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



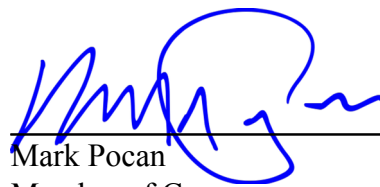
April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



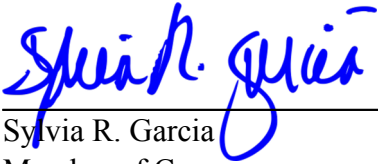
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



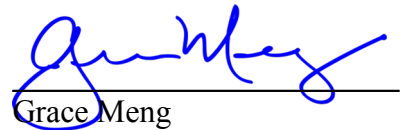
Chrissy Houlahan
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Mark Pocan
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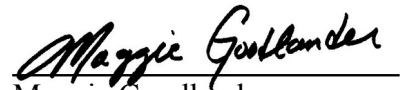
Sylvia R. Garcia
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Grace Meng
Member of Congress



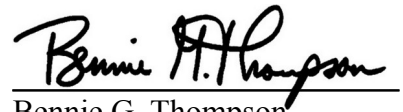
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



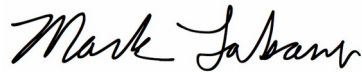
Maggie Goodlander
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Lloyd Doggett
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Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
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Kevin Mullin
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Pramila Jayapal
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Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



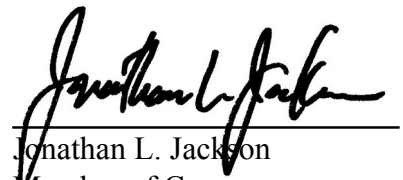
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



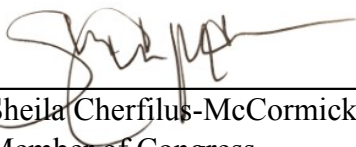
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



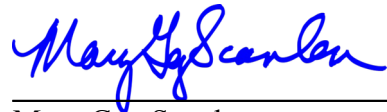
Gwen S. Moore
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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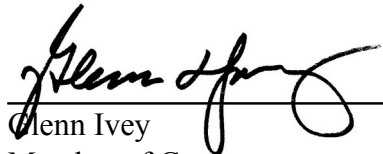
Mary Gay Scanlon
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Lucy McBath
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Frederica S. Wilson
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Glenn Ivey
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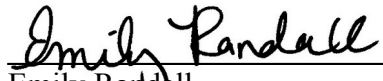
Terri A. Sewell
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Jan Schakowsky
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Laura Friedman
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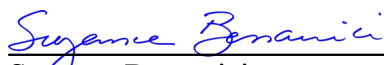
Angie Craig
Member of Congress



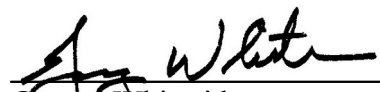
André Carson
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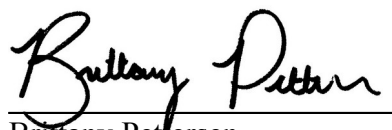
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



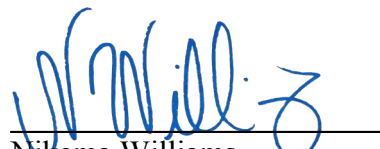
Suzanne Bonamici
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George Whitesides
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Brittany Pettersen
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Nikema Williams
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Mike Quigley
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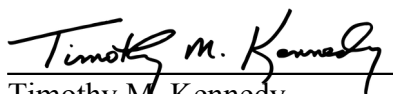
Ami Bera, M.D.
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Yassamin Ansari
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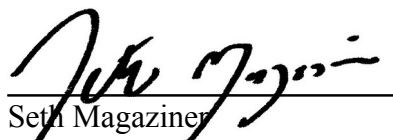
Greg Landsman
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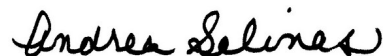

Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress

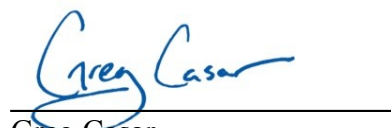

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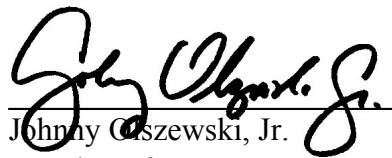
Deborah K. Ross
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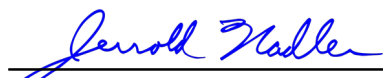
Val Hoyle
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Johnny Ciszewski, Jr.
Member of Congress



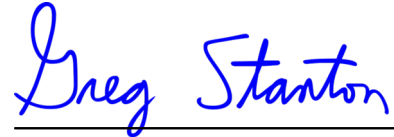
Teresa Leger Fernandez
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Jerrold Nadler
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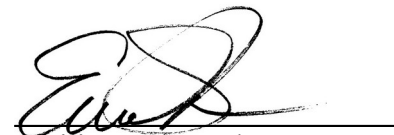
Greg Stanton
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Emilia Strong Sykes
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Gabe Amo
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Steve Cohen
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