

I am writing with deep concern about President Trump's proposed Title X regulations.

I am concerned because:

Women, and disproportionately poor women, will be harmed because their ability to make informed decisions about their health will be restricted by the "gag rule," which prevents any counseling or referral regarding abortion. The "gag rule" also violates the First Amendment by suppressing speech.

Patients will be deprived of access to comprehensive health care if clinics are allowed to offer family planning options that are not "medically approved."

Clinics will be forced to choose between offering full reproductive health options or receiving Title X funding if they are required to physically separate their facilities that offer abortion services. Many providers will be forced to shut down without Title X funding, and thus poor and uninsured patients will go without care.

Rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) will increase because fewer adolescents will seek care if important confidentiality provisions protecting minors are removed.

Title X clinics will be overburdened if the definition of "low-income" is expanded to include those that are now without coverage due to this administration's enactment of a rule allowing employers to refuse to cover birth control based on religious objections, without a corresponding funding increase.

Providers will be unfairly and unjustifiably burdened if they have to submit detailed and unnecessary information about agencies they work with or refer patients to.