

May 1, 2018

Hon. Alex M. Azar II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar

For far too long the Title X Family Planning Program has been integrated with abortion centers. It is time to act swiftly to disentangle abortion centers from the Title X network. Doing so would be consistent with the President's pledgeⁱ and subsequent actions to defund Planned Parenthood and reallocate funding to alternative providers.

Reinstating President Ronald Reagan's Title X regulations is sorely needed to bring the program into clear alignment with the statutory requirement stating, "None of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning." Abortion is not family planning and the law recognizes that.

The Reagan regulations complied with this requirement by directing taxpayer funds to Title X locations that did not perform or refer for abortion. This action does not ban abortion or abortion referral in the private sector. It only governs the types of centers that the federal government chooses to fund using taxpayer dollars. Federally funded family planning centers should not refer for abortion or be co-located with abortion clinics. These regulations were upheld by the Supreme Court in 1991 in *Rust v. Sullivan* (500 U.S. 173).

The result of this policy is simply to separate the Title X network of family planning providers from abortionists like Planned Parenthood – the nation's largest abortion chain. A GAO reportⁱⁱ issued earlier this year showed that Title X is currently Planned Parenthood's second largest funding stream, generating \$50-\$60 million for the abortion giant. By shifting funding to clinic sites that do not perform or refer for abortion, you will send a strong message that abortion is not family planning consistent with the law creating the program.

In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018ⁱⁱⁱ, Congress provided \$286 million for the Title X program. It is time to reinstate common-sense pro-life safeguards before the end of the fiscal year when the Congress and the President will face another funding deadline.

Sincerely,

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ⁱ <https://www.sba-list.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Trump-Letter-on-ProLife-Coalition.pdf>

ⁱⁱ <https://lozierinstitute.org/fact-sheet-government-funding-of-international-abortion-organizations-2013-2015/>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.congress.gov/115/bills/hr1625/BILLS-115hr1625enr.pdf>

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