

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 22, 2016

President-Elect Donald J. Trump
Trump Tower
725 5th Ave
New York, NY 10022

Dear President-Elect Trump:

We write to express our great concern regarding the protection of our nation's family planning centers in the next Congress and under your Administration. The economic security of women and their families is directly tied to a woman's access to reproductive health care, including birth control and counseling.

Despite numerous Court decisions supporting and reiterating the importance of reproductive health care for women and families, Republicans in Congress have repeatedly attempted to restrict federal funding from supporting Title X family planning centers in communities nationwide. Quality of care, not politics, should drive a health care provider's eligibility for federal funding. We urge you to stand with women and against Congressional Republicans by committing to implement a recently finalized rule stopping extreme Republicans from limiting communities' health care options for purely ideological reasons.

Enacted with strong bipartisan support in 1970, the Title X family planning provider network is the only federal grant program dedicated solely to providing individuals with comprehensive family planning and related preventive health services. In fact, four out of ten women who received care at health centers funded by Title X consider it to be their only source of health care.¹ And last year alone, Title X provided basic primary and preventive health care services such as pap tests, breast exams, and HIV testing to more than 4.1 million low-income women and men at over 4,100 health centers.

On December 14, 2016, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) finalized a historic rule which ensures that federal funds are awarded to health care providers based on their ability to serve patients and not for discriminatory or political reasons. This regulation clarifies and reinforces existing protections in the Title X program to ensure no qualified provider is excluded from eligibility for federal funding, and guarantee that women and LGBT Americans have access to the care entitled to them under federal law. However, before the ink was even dry on this rule,

¹ Guttmacher Institute. <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/publicly-funded-family-planning-services-united-states>

Senate Republicans had already threatened to undo this historic rule, jeopardizing the health of millions of women and families.²

Regrettably, your selection of Congressman Tom Price for HHS Secretary further reinforces threats to women's reproductive health care. To cite one example, in response to a question about what would happen to women if the birth control benefit was taken away, Congressman Price stated in 2012, "Bring me one woman who has been left behind. Bring me one. There's not one."³ As the head of HHS, Congressman Price will have unprecedented authority to target women's health and turn back decades of progress based on misinformation about women's health care needs.

Despite your decision to nominate Congressman Price, you have as recently as this year claimed to support Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest family planning provider, recognizing that the organization "has done very good work for millions of women."⁴ Family planning services, like those provided at Planned Parenthood and other family planning centers, should be available to all women, no matter where they live or how much money they make. It is critical that you take a stand against efforts to undermine women's access to reproductive health care.

President-elect Trump, women across the country have reason to be deeply concerned about the impact your administration could have on their health, their access to care, and therefore their economic security. We urge you to take clear position in favor of women's health by supporting access to birth control and family planning services at Planned Parenthood and other Title X clinics nationwide.

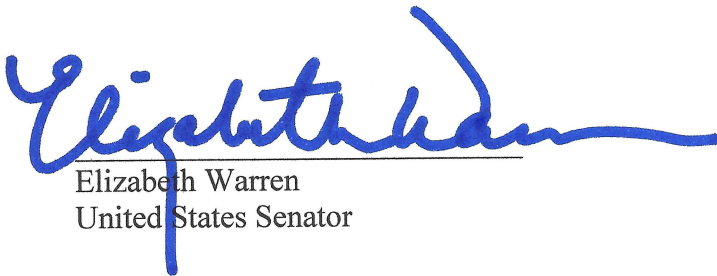
Sincerely,



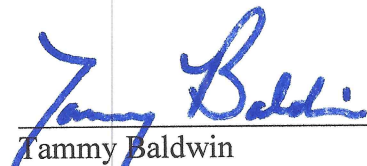
Patty Murray
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

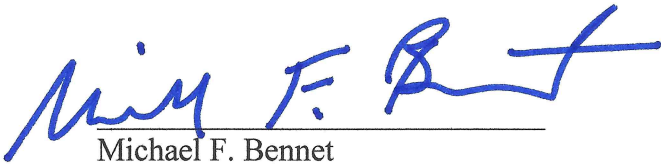


Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

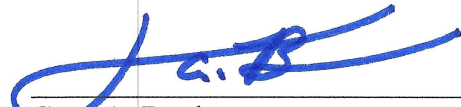
² <http://www.rpc.senate.gov/policy-papers/reining-in-obama-regulatory-overreach>

³ You Tube, Conservative Political Action Conference, Rep. Tom Price on birth control: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_mu8CS0aWA

⁴ It [Planned Parenthood] does do wonderful things but not as it relates to abortion. There are wonderful things having to do with women's health, but not when it comes to abortion. [2016 CBS Republican primary debate](#) in South Carolina, Feb 13, 2016.



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



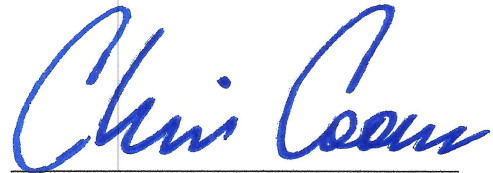
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



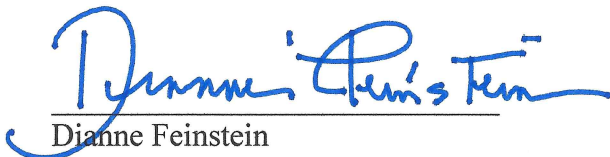
Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



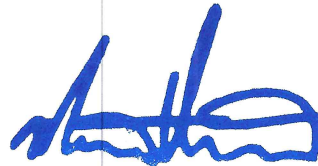
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Mazie K. Hirono
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Patrick J. Leahy
Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Claire McCaskill
Claire McCaskill
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Jeffrey A. Merkley
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

Gary Peters
Gary Peters
United States Senator

Jack Reed
Jack Reed
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

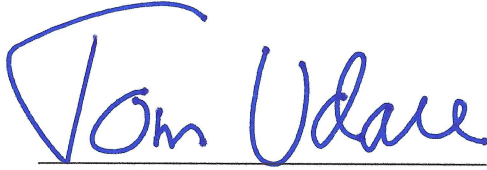
Brian Schatz
Brian Schatz
United States Senator




Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Mark Warner
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator