

National  
**Family Planning**  
& Reproductive Health Association

May 16, 2008

The Honorable Mike Leavitt  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt,

I am writing on behalf of the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association (NFPRHA), a membership organization dedicated to improving access to reproductive health care for all women, to strongly urge you to preserve Title X, the nation's family planning program, and not to take any administrative action that would undermine our nation's health care safety net.

As you know, the Title X program is a bipartisan, common sense approach to ensure that all Americans, regardless of economic status, have access to family planning and other preventive health services. Title X provides comprehensive, high-quality family planning and reproductive health services that women and men need to act responsibly, stay healthy and plan their families.

For more than 35 years, despite severe under-funding, Title X has kept the promise of Congress' intent, providing nearly 5 million low-income women and men with family planning and preventive health services at more than 4,400 health centers nationwide. Title X is a true public health success story that helps to prevent one million unintended pregnancies every year, thereby reducing the need for abortion. For millions of women and men, Title X is their only source of health care. At a time when more and more Americans are either uninsured or struggling with the soaring costs of healthcare, any attempt to undermine the Title X program will have disastrous effects on the nation's health care safety net and the millions of Americans served by it.

I know that some interest groups have launched an aggressive campaign to urge the President to limit access to the essential health care provided by Title X. The administrative actions urged by these groups will negatively impact women's health and undermine efforts to prevent unintended pregnancies by forcing thousands of health centers out of the Title X program and jeopardizing access to basic health care for nearly 5 million individuals nationwide.

The current rules governing the Title X program strike the proper balance between protecting its integrity and maintaining access to family planning services. These rules reflect Congress' intent to ensure that women receive complete, accurate, and unbiased information from their doctors and that family planning services are available to women who need them. On behalf of the members of the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association, and the more than 4,400 health centers who provide services through Title X, I strongly support the existing policies under which the program has operated since it was signed into law by President Nixon in 1970.

I urge you to stand with us and the vast majority of Americans who support access to comprehensive family planning services by rejecting outrageous and dangerous calls to undermine this important federal program.

Sincerely,



Mary Jane Gallagher  
President & CEO

**Helping people act responsibly, stay healthy and plan for strong families**

1627 K Street, NW, 12th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20006-1702 • Phone 202.293.3114 • [www.nfprha.org](http://www.nfprha.org)