

Senate Co-Chairs: Senator Judy Schwank Senator Amanda M. Cappelletti

> House Co-Chairs: Representative Gina H. Curry Representative Mary Jo Daley

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May 6, 2025

Honorable Josh Shapiro Governor of Pennsylvania 225 Main Capitol Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Shapiro:

As Chairs of the Women's Health Caucus, we write to express our urgent concern about the future of family planning services in Pennsylvania. Recent federal actions have withheld Title X Family Planning funds from two regions—Southeastern and Northwestern Pennsylvania—and reduced funding by 20%-50% for two others—Central Pennsylvania and the Northeast/Lehigh Valley. Even in the two regions that received contracts, the future remains uncertain, as those contracts have only been extended for six months, through the end of the federal fiscal year. Our concern is heightened by recent correspondence from the Office of Management and Budget outlining a proposed \$286 million cut to family planning programs, justified by the claim that these "programs use taxpayers funds to nonprofits that are not aligned with several Administration policies."

Immediate financial support is critical to restore access to family planning services in Southeastern and Northwestern Pennsylvania, where funding has been entirely withheld. Additionally, to ensure continued access to these essential services statewide, funding must be secured in the 2025–2026 state budget.

In light of these developments, we strongly urge the state to identify alternative funding to sustain Family Planning Services in Pennsylvania.

Title X is the only federal grant program exclusively dedicated to providing family planning and reproductive health services. It is a critical source of care for individuals with low incomes, offering services such as cancer screenings, contraception, fertility assistance, STI testing and treatment, and health education. Without this funding, access to these essential services will be severely limited, particularly for the most vulnerable populations.

The consequences of losing Title X support would be immediate and far-reaching. Rural communities, where Title X-funded clinics are often the sole healthcare providers for uninsured or underinsured individuals, would be disproportionately affected. Adolescents, who already face numerous barriers to care, would face even greater challenges. Eliminating this funding would lead to delayed or absent treatment, poorer health outcomes, higher rates of sexually transmitted infections, and increased risks for maternal and infant health. For many Pennsylvanians, access to Title X services can be a matter of life or death.

In FY24, Title X funding provided \$13.5 million in Pennsylvania:

Access Matters: \$5.57 million

Adagio: \$3.52 million

FHCCP: \$2.87 million

MFHS: \$1.6 million

Total: \$13.56 million

The majority of patients supported by Title X live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and rely on these clinics for no-cost care. Without Title X, many will have no viable healthcare alternatives.

We urge the state to take immediate action to ensure continuity of care by including dedicated resources for family planning services in the FY26 budget. This support is not only a matter of public health, but of basic human dignity and equity.

Sincerely,

Quarth L. Ochwank

Senator Judith L. Schwank 11th Legislative District Women's Health Caucus Co-Chair

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Senator Amanda M. Cappelletti 17th Legislative District Women's Health Caucus Co-Chair

Representative Mary Jo Daley 148th Legislative District Women's Health Caucus Co-Chair

Representative Gina H 164th Legislative District Women's Health Caucus Co-Chair

CC:

The Honorable Matthew Bradford, House Majority Leader The Honorable Jay Costa, Senate Minority Leader The Honorable Jordan Harris, House Majority Appropriations Chair The Honorable Vincent Hughes, Senate Minority Appropriations Chair