

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

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

May 6, 2025

Honorable Dave McCormick SH-702 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 Honorable John Fetterman 142 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators McCormick & Fetterman,

We are writing on behalf of the Pennsylvania Women's Health Caucus to request your support in urging the Department of Health and Human Services to immediately reinstate withheld Title X Family Planning funding in our region, across Pennsylvania, and throughout the nation.

Title X remains the only federal grant program in the United States exclusively dedicated to funding sexual and reproductive health services. This support is vital for ensuring that individuals with low incomes nationwide can access essential medical care that would otherwise be out of reach – services such as cancer screenings, contraception, fertility assistance, STI testing, and health education. Eliminating this funding would create immediate and significant barriers to care, leading to delayed or absent treatment, poorer health outcomes, increased rates of sexually transmitted infections and related complications, and heightened risks for both maternal and infant health. For many, access to Title X clinics can quite literally be a matter of life or death.

The consequences of losing this funding would be both immediate and profound. The ability to deliver care to vulnerable populations would be severely compromised, with the greatest impact felt in rural communities where Title X-supported clinics often serve as the only source of healthcare for the uninsured or underinsured. The program is especially vital for adolescents, who already face heightened barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive healthcare.

In regions such as Southeastern Pennsylvania, this funding enables over 61,650 individuals each year to receive care through 77 clinics. An overwhelming 77% of patients served in these areas live at or below 200% of the federal poverty level and qualify for no-cost services. Without Title X, many of these individuals would be left with no viable healthcare alternatives.

The withholding of Title X funding will significantly impact the ability of individuals in Pennsylvania and across the country to access vital services. It is critical that funding is immediately returned in order to reduce service interruptions and mitigate the harm to health and wellbeing throughout the region. Please urge the Department of Health and Human Services to immediately restore Title X funding to organizations in our region, across Pennsylvania and throughout the nation that have seen their grants withheld.

Sincerely,

Senator Judith L. Schwank

11th Legislative District Women's Health Caucus Co-Chair Representative Mary Jo Daley

148th Legislative District

Women's Health Caucus Co-Chair

Senator Amanda M. Cappelletti

17th Legislative District Women's Health Caucus Co-Chair

Women's Health Caucus Co-Chair

164th Legislative District