



Legislation Text

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Res. No. 919

Resolution calling on the Federal Government to dismiss the change to Title X funding, specifically to prohibit recipients from using Title X funds to perform, promote, refer for, or support abortion as a method of family planning.

By Council Members Ayala, Rosenthal, Chin, Adams, Koslowitz, Rivera, Gibson, Ampry-Samuel, Kallos, Cornegy, Levine, Rose, Louis, Moya, Barron, Lander and Cumbo

Whereas, According to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Title X family planning clinics ensure access to family planning and related preventative health services for millions of low-income and uninsured individuals and others; and

Whereas, According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, Title X was first enacted in 1970, and it is the only federal program specifically dedicated to supporting the delivery of family planning care; and

Whereas, In 2017, nearly 4,000 clinics across the nation relied on Title X funding to help serve four million people, and Title X was funded at \$286.5 million for Fiscal Year 2018; and

Whereas, According to National Public Radio (NPR), Planned Parenthood serves about 40 percent of Title X patients; and

Whereas, According to Planned Parenthood, Title X funding allows clinics to provide wellness exams, lifesaving cervical and breast cancer screenings, birth control, contraception education, testing and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, HIV testing, and other services; and

Whereas, In 2016, Title X clinics were able to provide more than four million tests for sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV tests, as well as nearly one million breast exams and 720,000 pap tests; and

Whereas, According to Planned Parenthood, publicly funded birth control services, including Title X, help people avoid 1.9 million unintended pregnancies every year, 440,000 of which are teen pregnancies; and

Whereas, According to Planned Parenthood, 32 percent of Title X patients identify as Hispanic or Latino and about 21 percent identify as Black or African American; and

Whereas, According to Planned Parenthood, nearly 80 percent of patients who receive services through Title X funding are low income, with incomes less than 150 percent of the federal poverty level; and

Whereas, According to NPR, nearly half (42 percent) of Title X patients in 2017 were uninsured and 38 percent were covered by Medicaid or another public health program; and

Whereas, On March 4, 2019, the Federal Administration published new final regulations to change the way Title X funding is dispersed; and

Whereas, According to Kaiser Family Foundation, the key goal of the new regulations is to block funding from family planning providers that also offer abortion services and/or refer patients to other providers for abortion services; and

Whereas, According to Kaiser Family Foundation, the new regulations require clinics with Title X funded activities to have full physical and financial separation from abortion-related activities, bans clinics from providing pregnant patients with referrals for abortions, severely limits when a staff member at a clinic can even mention or discuss abortion as an option, amongst other things; and

Whereas, The Administration intends to implement such rules despite current policies excluding abortion services from Title X funding and limiting providers from promoting abortions, scheduling appointments for abortions, negotiating abortion rates, or arranging transportation for people desiring abortions; and

Whereas, If the changes are implemented, it would be devastating to millions of Americans, including patients and families, clinicians, and clinic staff; and

Whereas, The new regulations would significantly reduce the network of family planning providers across the country, and would limit access to preventative and reproductive health care to those who are low-income and uninsured; and

Whereas, The proposed regulations would severely limit access to family planning services for millions of people, including access to contraception and abortions; and

Whereas, The proposed regulations would disproportionately affect individuals who are Latinx, Black, uninsured, enrolled in public health insurance, and/or low income; and

Whereas, Although a federal judge in Washington state blocked the Administration's plans, the block is only temporary; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Council of the City of New York calls on the Federal Government to dismiss the change to Title X funding, specifically to prohibit recipients from using Title X funds to perform, promote, refer for, or support abortion as a method of family planning.

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