

A RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO RESCIND THE NEW TITLE X REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the federal Title X family planning program, established in 1970 by Congress with broad bi-partisan support, is the sole federal program dedicated to funding family planning services, including birth control, pregnancy testing, and sexually transmitted disease prevention and treatment; and

WHEREAS, California’s Title X provider network – the largest and most diverse Title X system in the country – served more than 1 million low income Californians in 2017, over 25 percent of all Title X patients nationwide; and

WHEREAS, every \$1 invested in publicly-funded family planning and related services saves taxpayers \$7 by helping avert costs related to unintended pregnancies; and

WHEREAS, Title X is an essential part of California’s family planning safety-net, contributing to a 30-year low in the rate of unintended pregnancy and the lowest teen pregnancy rate in the state’s history; and

WHEREAS, more than 30,000 low-income women, men, and teens in Alameda County received family planning and related health services in 2017 at Title X-funded health centers; and

WHEREAS, more than 50% of Title X patients in Alameda County remain uninsured, and nearly 55% earn below 100 % of the Federal Poverty Level; and

WHEREAS, nineteen health care sites received Title X funding in Alameda County in 2017 to support their delivery of quality family planning and related services, including community health centers, Planned Parenthood health centers, and the City of Berkeley Department of Health and Human Services; and

WHEREAS, the new federal Title X regulations interfere with the provider-patient relationship and gag Title X-funded agencies by directing providers to withhold full and accurate medical information from patients about pregnancy options and referrals to abortion care; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association’s Code of Medical Ethics establishes that withholding information without the patient’s knowledge or consent is ethically unacceptable and that patients should be informed of all burdens, risks, and expected benefits of all medical options; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda strongly believes public dollars should go toward family planning programs that provide comprehensive, medically accurate, unbiased information, and offer the full range of contraceptive methods; and

WHEREAS, the federal Government’s Title X regulations are likely to force many health care organizations and qualified family planning providers in the County of Alameda to choose between a critical funding source and accepting onerous and unnecessary regulations, resulting in reduced access to quality, time-sensitive care for low-income individuals across the County; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board of Supervisors of Alameda County urges the United States Department of Health and Human Services to rescind the new Title X regulations that will impede access to essential, time-sensitive health care for low-income women, men and teens in Alameda County and the country.

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March 12, 2019

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