

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS HILDA L. SOLIS AND
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March 12, 2019

Amicus Support for California in Lawsuit Challenging New Rule Affecting Title X

On February 22, 2019, the United States Department of Health and Human Services issued a new regulation barring organizations that provide abortions or abortion referrals from participating in the federal family planning program pursuant to Title X. Congress established this family planning program in 1970 and intended to provide high-quality family planning services and other preventative care to low-income and uninsured individuals who would otherwise lack access to healthcare. In fact, Title X is the sole federal program dedicated to providing family planning services and supports, including birth control, contraception education, and screening for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and HIV. It also allows for wellness checks, cancer screening, and lifesaving treatments.

Los Angeles County residents rely on Title X to access critical health services and, in many communities, residents would go without reproductive healthcare if the availability of Title X programs was limited. In 2017, nearly 260,000 low-income

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women, men, and teens in Los Angeles County received family planning and related health services at Title X-funded health centers. In the same year, the Department of Health Services provided Title X-funded family planning and related services to more than 15,000 patients across 16 County clinics. More than 110 additional health care sites in Los Angeles County received Title X funding in 2017 to support their delivery of quality family planning and related services, including federally qualified health centers, community clinics, Planned Parenthood health centers, and academic partners.

The new federal Title X regulation directs providers to withhold full and accurate medical information from patients about pregnancy options or provide referrals to abortion care. This interferes with the doctor-patient relationship, gags Title X-funded agencies and, ultimately, diminishes the quality of care Los Angeles County residents deserve.

On March 5, 2019, the state of California filed a lawsuit against the federal administration, challenging the new Title X regulation. Los Angeles County must stand with California by opposing the regulation and advocating to ensure women and families receive services essential to their health and wellbeing.

WE THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct:

1. County Counsel to join and/or file an amicus brief in support of the State of California in its lawsuit challenging the new Title X regulation.
2. County Counsel, in consultation with the Directors of Department of Health Services (DHS) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), to evaluate and make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors regarding Los Angeles

County's participation as amicus or plaintiff in the various other lawsuits concerning the federal government's disinvestment in the integral safety net provided by Title X's family planning program, as deemed appropriate by County Counsel.

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