

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 16, 2010

The Honorable Tom Harkin  
Chairman  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
and Education  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
and Education  
156 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin and Ranking Member Cochran:

As you begin work on the FY 2011 appropriations bills, we urge you to increase funding for the Title X family planning program in the FY 2011 Labor Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill. During this economic downturn, many Title X providers are struggling to continue providing services to families that cannot afford to bear as much of the cost of their care, and to meet the increased demand from families in need of assistance for the first time. Given the increasing need for this program, we ask that you include an additional \$76.5 million for a total of \$394 million for Title X in FY 2011.

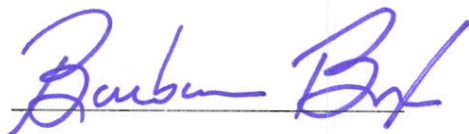
Widespread use of contraception continues to be a critical component of basic preventive health care for women and has been the driving force in reducing national rates of unintended pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and abortions. Title X serves nearly five million low-income women and men at more than 4,500 health centers each year. Many of these people rely on Title X to provide high-quality family planning services and other preventive health care such as Pap tests, breast exams, and HIV tests.

This program is one of the nation's best and most cost-effective public health success stories- for every public dollar invested in family planning, \$4.02 is saved in Medicaid costs for pregnancy and newborn care alone.

As the economic downturn impacts state and local budgets nationwide, many programs have had to reduce or eliminate access to basic preventive services. Throughout those cuts, Title X has proved an important resource for maintaining access to these essential services for millions of families.

Investing in preventive health services like family planning and disease screening not only saves lives, but also saves money. As states and localities are forced to make tough choices because of our current economic crisis, we urge you to invest in Title X to help ensure that the women and families who need these services can get them. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



William

Norm Fier

Ben Cant

Jeanne Shaker

Chuck Sch

Jim Johnson

Dick Durbin

Robert Menendez

Amy K. Schubert

Herb Kohl

Al Franken

Allen Scheck

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TiteX

Sherrill Brown

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Ron Wyden

Carl Levin

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