

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 10, 2011

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 Richard Shelby  
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 Shelby:

As you begin work on the FY 2012 appropriations bills, we urge you to include \$327 million for the Title X family planning program in the FY 2012 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. This will allow Title X to continue the important mission it has carried out for four decades – providing family planning and preventive health services to millions of low-income Americans.

Title X provides basic health care services to 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. In addition, the contraceptive services provided at Title X clinics help to prevent nearly one million unintended pregnancies each year.

Due to the struggling economy, clinics are experiencing significant increases in patients who have trouble affording care, and more and more patients report struggling with the cost of prescription birth control. Title X clinics saw an increase of over 130,000 patients in 2009, the largest increase in 10 years.

In this difficult budget situation, we think it is important to recognize that Title X funding reduces costs in the long term. Every dollar invested in Title X saves nearly four dollars in Medicaid-related costs. It is fiscally responsible to support and strengthen this preventive health program.

We urge you to join us in recognizing both the need for Title X services and the longtime success of this program by providing \$327 million in Fiscal Year 2012 for the Title X family planning program. We thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,





Jim Aubri

Bill Nelson

John Stone

Richard Obman Ref

Ben Cadi

James Shaker

Chuck Sch

Frank R. Lankenberg

Jeffrey A. Merkle

Al Franken

Dianne Feinstein

Bar Sanders

Ron Wyden

Patrick Leahy

Bob Casey, Jr.

John J. Kennedy

Mark Begich

Alaska Stewart

Jim Johnson

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Daniel K. Spaka

Carl Sen

---

---

---

---

---

---

---