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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6300

DAVID P. CLEARY, STAFF DIRECTOR
EVAN SCHATZ, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

<http://help.senate.gov>

July 5, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

As you know all too well, the Trump-Pence Administration is dedicated to undermining women's access to basic health care services and rolling back women's reproductive rights. From efforts to restrict coverage for contraception to efforts to dictate the conversations between women and their health care providers, President Trump and Vice President Pence have made clear they will prioritize extreme conservative ideology over science, evidence, and a woman's ability to make her own health care decisions.

Especially in light of the Supreme Court vacancy and President Trump's repeated commitments to strike down *Roe v. Wade*, it is more important than ever that we work together to shine a spotlight on the Trump-Pence Administration's constant efforts to undermine women's access to reproductive health care. I am writing you today to ensure you are aware of the harmful, inaccurate views held by the political appointee President Trump and Vice President Pence recently put in charge of the federal family planning program known as Title X. This appointment is particularly concerning given that under the Administration's proposed policy changes, this appointee, Dr. Diane Foley, will be empowered to impose her deeply harmful views on women and young people.

In every single one of our states, Title X-funded providers offer critical services for women, particularly low-income women, women of color and women living in rural areas. Through the Title X network, women receive a broad range of preventive sexual and reproductive health services, including contraceptive care, STI testing and treatment, and cancer screenings. In May, my staff released reports detailing the range of clients served and care provided by the Title X network in each state. The reports also illustrate the impact of potential threats to the Title X network should the Trump-Pence Administration's proposed changes go into effect. I encourage you all to share the information about your states, available online [here](#).

While I am pleased that Senate Democrats and Republicans were able to push off President Trump's proposed cuts and agree in the FY 2019 appropriations bill to maintain funding for the Title X program, the Trump-Pence Administration's recent proposals to reform Title X would undeniably limit access to critical services for millions of women across the country. In February, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a funding opportunity announcement that fundamentally shifts the Title X program's comprehensive, evidence-based approach to one rooted in ideology. In May, HHS proposed a new rule that would deny Title X funds to organizations that provide abortions and impose unworkable restrictions on Title X providers. In her new role, these proposed changes would give Dr. Foley extensive license to impose her beliefs on women and young people.

My staff has prepared the attached memo on Dr. Foley. Her efforts to spread misinformation, undermine women's access to basic health care services, and roll back women's reproductive rights are especially dangerous given the office she now leads.

I hope this memo is useful to you as we continue working together to make clear we will not let the Trump-Pence Administration's attacks go unnoticed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patty Murray". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patty Murray
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions