

March 23, 2023

The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chairman
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies -
Committee on Appropriations
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

The undersigned organizations, representing primary care providers, physicians, and health care advocates, believe that patients should have access to basic preventive services, including contraception, through their primary care provider. We urge you to support the request of \$50 million for initiatives that expand access to high-quality contraceptive care in primary care settings under the Health Resources and Services Administration in the Fiscal Year 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill.

While the provision of contraceptives is often associated with specialists, [nearly half](#) of all counties in the U.S. do not have a single obstetrician-gynecologist. Primary care providers could help address gaps in those areas, but data show that only [40%](#) of primary care providers offer contraception. Many primary care providers do not feel equipped to offer patient-centered contraceptive counseling or to administer all contraceptive methods. [Studies](#) indicate, however, that both patients and providers support the broader inclusion of family planning in primary care settings. When asked what might pose a barrier, both patients and providers [reported](#) that additional training is needed for primary care providers to meaningfully integrate contraceptive care into their practices. In particular, many providers are not trained to insert and remove intrauterine devices and

implants, creating additional barriers to those methods. Addressing these gaps is critical, as more than [19 million](#) women of reproductive age currently reside in a contraceptive desert.

Funding training and technical assistance for primary care providers would ensure that patients can access the family planning services they need and deserve at any provider of their choice, including as a routine part of primary care.

We appreciate your consideration of the request to provide \$50 million in funding for contraceptive access initiatives in FY 2024. Please contact Rebekah Fries, Federal Policy & Advocacy Specialist from Upstream USA, at rfries@upstream.org for more information or with any questions.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP)

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)

Families USA

Family Planning Elevated

Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC)

Upstream USA