



AAFP CALLS ON HHS TO RESCIND TITLE X RULE: STAY OUT OF PATIENT-PHYSICIAN RELATIONSHIP AND PROTECT WOMEN'S HEALTH

Monday, February 25, 2019

Statement attributable to:
John Cullen, MD
President
American Academy of Family Physicians

“The American Academy of Family Physicians is deeply disappointed that the administration has finalized a Title X rule that both interferes in the physician-patient relationship and impedes access to evidence-based care for patients. We call on the administration to reconsider its decision and immediately rescind this rule to protect the health and wellbeing of the millions of American women who rely on the resources Title X supports.

“By dictating what medical information family physicians can and cannot provide to patients, this rule amounts to an unconscionable level of intrusion with the practice of medicine. It forces family physicians to omit important and accurate medical information necessary for our patients to make timely, fully-informed decisions, and it encroaches on our physicians’ codes of ethics and responsibility to our patients. When our government restricts the information that can be given to women, women will receive substandard medical care and their health will suffer.

“We are further disheartened that the administration would steer federal funding away from qualified family planning providers that offer some of the most basic and critical health care services for women such as contraception, STI testing, well woman exams, and cancer screenings.

“More than 8.7 million women gained maternity care services thanks to Title X coverage, and 62 million women with private insurance gained access to vital preventive services. Title X is also the only federal grant program exclusively dedicated to providing low-income and adolescent patients with access to effective family planning and related preventive health services. This new rule threatens to undo years of forward progress and will put the health of millions of women at risk.”

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