



Elections & Laws for Life

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How are Title X dollars spent? Are they strictly for health care services?

Rather than paying for specific services for women, Title X is a [slush fund](#) for general operations and advertising. Title X dollars pay for rent, utilities, staff salaries and computers. Title X also funds advertising to recruit clients through community outreach. When abortion businesses like Planned Parenthood use Title X to build their client base, they are also building their potential abortion business.

Is the Protect Life Rule even legal? It's a major change from how the program has been administered for decades.

Abortion is not family planning and the Title X law recognizes that. Reinstating President Ronald Reagan's regulations would bring the program into clear alignment with the statutory requirement stating, "None of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used in programs where abortion is a method of family planning." The Reagan policy was even upheld by the Supreme Court in *Rust v. Sullivan* (500 U.S. 173).

Doesn't the Hyde Amendment already apply? Some say this goes too far.

The Protect Life Rule simply draws a bright line between family planning and abortion. Unfortunately, that line was blurred by Clinton-era regulations allowing funding for abortion centers and requiring all grantees to refer for abortion. This rule would replace the Clinton-era regulations. The Title X statute specifically states funds should not go to *programs in which abortion is a method of family planning*. By stopping funding for programs that refer for abortion and are even co-located with abortion centers this administration will bring needed program integrity to Title X.

This is a gag rule. Isn't it unfair to infringe on the free speech of private entities?

The Protect Life Rule does not ban abortion or abortion referral in the private sector. It only governs the types of centers that the federal government chooses to fund using taxes collected from hardworking Americans. Under the Protect Life Rule, grantees like Planned Parenthood have a choice – disentangle themselves from abortion or fund their activities without taxpayer underwriting. If pro-abortion centers refuse to comply the funds will be shifted to health centers that do not perform or refer for abortion sending a strong message that abortion is not family planning.

Why now? Does anyone even want these regulations?

When Congress passed yet another funding bill benefiting the coffers of abortion businesses like Planned Parenthood, the pro-life grassroots were furious. By reinstating the Protect Life Rule, the Trump administration would demonstrate that they heard the American people and intend to stop taxpayer dollars from subsidizing the abortion industry. 193 Members of Congress and 86 pro-life advocacy groups have urged the administration to reissue the Protect Life Rule.

What's wrong with funding the abortion industry?

When taxpayers fund the abortion industry they bankroll their entire operation with dire consequences. According to [a study](#) by Charlotte Lozier Institute researchers, Planned Parenthood has inflated the U.S. abortion rate and more than three million avoidable abortions can be attributed to Planned Parenthood's intervention in the abortion market.

How is this different from what Congress did last year? Why wasn't that enough?

In a parting gift to the abortion industry President Obama finalized rules requiring states acting as primary grantees under the program to fund abortion businesses. Fortunately, Congress and President Trump have already overturned the [Obama mandate](#) by passing a disapproval resolution. Disapproval resolutions can only be used to overturn recent regulations, so that mechanism was not available to overturn the Clinton regulations that mandate abortion referral and allow abortion businesses to get Title X funds.

Does this just target Planned Parenthood?

This rule will apply uniformly to all grantees. Other abortion businesses will have the same choice to make – comply or forgo federal funding. For [example](#), Maine Family Planning receives Title X grants and currently performs abortion.

Who will fill the gap if Planned Parenthood refuses to comply with the Protect Life Rule?

There are approximately 4,000 Title X service sites including state and county health departments, Community Health Centers, non-profit clinics and Planned Parenthoods. Less than 500 of those service sites are Planned Parenthood centers.

Isn't abortion just a small part of what Planned Parenthood does?

If it is just a minor aspect of what they do, it should be no problem to comply with the rule. However, over half – 266 of the 443 – Planned Parenthood service sites provide abortion at the same address. When a Title X family planning client finds herself pregnant and returns to Planned Parenthood, Planned Parenthood's most likely solution is an abortion. Of the three responses to pregnancy – prenatal care, adoption or abortion, over 90% of what Planned Parenthood provides is abortion.

Planned Parenthood says they serve 40% of Title X clients. Aren't they the most efficient provider of Title X services?

1. Planned Parenthood served [2.4 million clients](#) in 2015 and [1.6 million](#) of these clients were Title X patients. Meaning that 67% of Planned Parenthood clients are also Title X clients served by a program that makes up just 4% of their total \$1.46 billion dollars in revenue.

How can this be? Clearly there is more to the story. The answer most likely lies in the slush fund nature of Title X. A 2007 Guttmacher Institute report explains that Title X funds are used to recruit clients for which they then bill Medicaid:

Title X can subsidize the intensive outreach necessary to encourage some individuals to seek services. Furthermore, by paying for everything from staff salaries to utility bills to medical supplies, Title X funds provide the essential infrastructure support that enables clinics to go on and claim Medicaid reimbursement for the clients they serve.

Planned Parenthood should be able to use private donations for their slush fund.

2. Planned Parenthood's total services and patients have been in [decline](#) for years with one notable exception – abortion. Since 2010, the number of abortions performed by Planned Parenthood has remained relatively stable at around 330,000 abortions per year despite the national downward trend of total abortion, and while other Planned Parenthood services have declined – including total contraceptive services (down nearly 28% over the last five years), total cancer screening and prevention (down 41% over the last five years), and manual breast cancer screening (down 39% over the last five years).

Will this rule force Planned Parenthood to shut down clinics?

As with all grantees, Planned Parenthood affiliates will have the option to comply or forgo taxpayer support. Of the \$286 million appropriated for Title X, the nation's largest abortion chain, Planned Parenthood receives [\\$50-60 million](#). In contrast, Planned Parenthood had excess revenue over expenses of \$98.5 million and net assets of \$1.6 billion in their latest annual [report](#) covering the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The same report indicates that Planned Parenthood spent \$40 million on public policy, \$75 million on movement building and \$85 million on fundraising. Planned Parenthood's maximum revenue loss from refusing to follow federal law represents a maximum of 4% of their income. One donor has given Planned Parenthood \$70 million in a single year and a Texas donor supplied \$9 million in March 2018 to open two new facilities there. Few other nonprofits command resources of this magnitude.

Won't it be impossible for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) to absorb new clients since many would have to see double or triple their current number of contraceptive clients?

1. In 2015 there were 9,000 FQHCs (that number has since grown) serving 23 million patients. As explained [here](#), if Planned Parenthood could no longer "afford" to care for 1 million women, the net change in patient population per FQHC is approximately 110 women – over a year that amounts to an average of two additional patients per week – a fraction of the thousands of patients an FQHC will see in a year. The funds abortion promoters decline will go to new applicants, providing financial resources to absorb new patients.
2. Non-Planned Parenthood clinics that receive Title X funds (FQHCs, public health departments, hospitals, and others) already serve a [cumulative 2.2 million female Title X contraceptive clients](#), over half the patients served by Title X.
3. Of the various types of clinics that receive Title X funding (e.g. FQHCs, public health departments, Planned Parenthood centers, and hospitals), FQHCs were also the only type to experience an increase in patients receiving Title X services from 2010 to 2015. Planned Parenthood Title X centers experienced a [decline](#) of about 190,000 clients who received Title X-funded services, or about a 10.6% decline, from about 1.8 million in 2010 to approximately 1.6 million in 2015. On the other hand, Title X-funded FQHCs experienced a 63% increase, or about 276,000 more patients receiving Title X funded services from 435,570 in 2010 to 711,550 in 2015.
4. In California, the state with the most Title X-funded centers, Essential Access Health – the main grantee administering the Title X program in the state – reported that in 2016 FQHCs made up [63% of the Title X-funded centers](#) while Planned Parenthoods made up 11%.