

**As Introduced**

**132nd General Assembly  
Regular Session  
2017-2018**

**S. C. R. No. 25**

**Senators Thomas, Tavares**

**Cosponsors: Senators Skindell, Schiavoni, Yuko, Brown, Williams, O'Brien,  
Sykes**

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**A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION**

To express opposition to proposed changes in federal 1  
regulations governing the Title X National Family 2  
Planning Program and to declare support for access to 3  
all legal family planning services and related 4  
counseling. 5

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING):**

WHEREAS, Title X of the Public Health Service Act (42 6  
U.S.C. 300 et seq.) was enacted in 1970 to provide funds and 7  
ensure access to comprehensive family planning and related 8  
preventive health services for low-income or uninsured 9  
individuals, among others; and 10

WHEREAS, Title X providers play an important role in 11  
providing sexual and reproductive care to low-income women. From 12  
2006 to 2010, for example, 14% of all women in the United States 13  
who received any contraceptive service obtained that care from 14  
Title X providers, as did 25% of poor women and 36% of uninsured 15  
women receiving care. In fact, six in ten women visiting Title X 16  
providers for contraceptive and related services reported that a 17  
Title X provider was their usual source for medical care; and 18

WHEREAS, Ohio's Title X providers are ideally situated to 19  
counsel women on using long-acting reversible contraceptives 20  
(LARC) to achieve optimal birth spacing, a recommendation in the 21  
Ohio Commission on Infant Mortality's report issued in March 22  
2017. According to the World Health Organization, optimal birth 23  
spacing can reduce premature birth and infant mortality rates, 24  
of which Ohio's are among the worst in the United States; and 25

WHEREAS, The Office of Population Affairs within the United 26  
States Department of Health and Human Services has stated that 27  
the Title X National Family Planning Program helps to increase 28  
teenagers' access to LARC. Having greater access to LARC could 29  
play a pivotal role in efforts to reduce Ohio's high teen birth 30  
rate which, according to the Ohio Department of Health, costs 31  
Ohio taxpayers \$9.8 billion between 1991 and 2010; and 32

WHEREAS, In 2014, Ohio's Title X providers helped to avert 33  
25,500 unintended pregnancies, which would have resulted in 34  
12,400 unplanned births and 9,200 abortions according to an 35  
analysis prepared by the Guttmacher Institute; and 36

WHEREAS, Ohio's Title X providers were able to support over 37  
93,000 residents at 87 service sites in 2016, despite a federal 38  
funding level that has been decreasing since 2010 according to 39  
the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association; 40  
and 41

WHEREAS, Even with the significant number of patients 42  
served by Title X providers, the Guttmacher Institute estimates 43  
that in 2014 those providers were able to meet only 14% of Ohio 44  
patients' need for contraceptive services and supplies; and 45

WHEREAS, The United States Secretary of Health and Human 46  
Services issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on June 1, 2018, 47  
that would require further separation between Title X services 48  
and abortion services, as well as prohibit a Title X provider 49

not only from providing abortions (as is currently prohibited), 50  
but also from referring for or supporting abortion, presenting 51  
abortion as a legal medical procedure, or taking any other 52  
affirmative action to assist a patient in securing an abortion; 53  
and 54

WHEREAS, The Kaiser Family Foundation has stated that 55  
efforts to block Planned Parenthood and other family planning 56  
providers from receiving Title X funds because they provide the 57  
full spectrum of legal family planning services, and counsel 58  
patients about them, could reduce low-income women's and 59  
teenagers' access to contraceptives. According to a University 60  
of Texas study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, 61  
when Texas replaced its federally funded family planning waiver 62  
program with a 100% state-funded program that excluded Planned 63  
Parenthood as a participating provider, there was a sizable drop 64  
in Medicaid claims for LARC and injectable contraceptives and an 65  
increase in Medicaid-funded births; and 66

WHEREAS, The American Medical Association's Code of Ethics 67  
provides that the physician-patient relationship is based on 68  
trust, which gives rise to physicians' ethical responsibility to 69  
place patients' welfare above anything else. Forcing a physician 70  
to knowingly withhold information from a patient strikes at the 71  
heart of this relationship; now therefore be it 72

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 132nd General 73  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, 74  
express strong opposition to the changes that the United States 75  
Secretary of Health and Human Services has proposed to Title X 76  
regulations; and be it further 77

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the 132nd General 78  
Assembly of the State of Ohio, in adopting this resolution, 79  
declare our support for allowing all family planning services 80  
providers, including those that receive Title X funds, to 81

provide the full spectrum of legal family planning services in 82  
their facilities unhindered by government restrictions that 83  
interfere with the physician-patient relationship; and be it 84  
further 85

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 86  
authenticated copies of this resolution to the United States 87  
Secretary for Health and Human Services, all members of Ohio's 88  
Congressional delegation, the Governor, and the news media of 89  
Ohio. 90