



# Title X Protect Life Rule

## Background

The Title X Family Planning Program is a voluntary grant program first authorized in 1970 and is intended to assist in “voluntary family planning projects,” offering “a broad range of acceptable and effective family planning methods and services,” and may not fund “programs where abortion is a method of family planning.”<sup>1</sup> Title X funding can be used for a number of things like utilities, advertising, staff salaries, and medical supplies. Title X funds are funded by Congress through the appropriations process, but Health and Human Services (HHS) has the final say on who receives these dollars. Currently, the Title X program is appropriated \$286 million.

## Protect Life Rule

HHS has proposed a new rule governing Title X funds. This rule, also referred to as the “Protect Life Rule,” proposes regulations similar to the “Reagan rules” that were upheld by the Supreme Court in 1991 in *Rust v. Sullivan*. These new regulations require physical and financial separation between Title X recipients and abortion providers. Under these new regulations, abortion centers cannot serve as Title X family planning centers and recipients cannot refer for abortion. Grantees must comply with state/local abuse reporting requirements. This rule also repeals the Clinton-era regulations that require abortion counseling and makes this optional.

## Talking Points

- **Abortion is not family planning.** The Protect Life Rule draws a bright line between abortion and family planning, as was clearly intended in the statute.
- **American taxpayers want out of the abortion business.** Six in ten Americans<sup>2</sup> oppose taxpayer funding of abortion, and this rule is consistent with that position. Money is fungible, and tax dollars should be invested in comprehensive health care alternatives, not used as a slush fund to prop up the abortion industry.
- **Family planning will not be cut by a cent.** This rule directs taxpayer funds to family planning providers who are willing to comply with grant requirements and stay out of the abortion business.
- **Women deserve better.** Women and girls are best served at non-abortion centers like community and rural health care centers where they have access to comprehensive, preventative, and primary care.
- **There is no “gag rule.”** Health care providers are free to speak with their patients about anything they are asked, but these providers are no longer *forced* to talk about abortion. This 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 taxpayer dollars.
- Last year, Planned Parenthood’s net revenue was \$98.5 million, and they received \$50-\$60 million in Title X dollars. Should they decline to comply with the Protect Life Rule, **their maximum revenue loss is a mere 4% of their income.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/USCODE-2016-title42/html/USCODE-2016-title42-chap6A-subchapVIII-sec300.htm>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.kofc.org/en/news/polls.html#/>