



DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION
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DemocraticGovernors.org

Feb. 26, 2019

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The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

As newly elected governors representing nearly 90 million Americans, we join our [colleagues across the country](#) in expressing our deep concern with this Administration’s recently finalized Title X rule. This rule, known as a domestic “gag rule,” would impose sweeping new restrictions on healthcare providers nationwide, prohibiting them from providing comprehensive, medically accurate information to their patients. These politically-motivated restrictions threaten access to reproductive healthcare for millions of vulnerable women and men.

As the only federal program dedicated to the delivery of family planning and related health care services, the Title X program has provided access to essential health care services for more than 40 years. It is a state-federal partnership that improves health outcomes, and as such, has enjoyed broad bipartisan support at all levels of government. The Administration’s new policy upends decades of bipartisan cooperation and is opposed by every major provider association.

We stand with women and men in our states by rejecting this Administration's efforts to interfere in the doctor-patient relationship, gut women's access to family planning services, and force medical professionals to knowingly withhold information from their patients.

We strongly urge you to rescind this rule. Should you choose to move forward with this policy, we will do what is necessary to protect the health of our constituents and explore all possible avenues, including legal options, to block it from being implemented. The women and men who rely on Title X in our states deserve no less.

Sincerely,

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
State of New Mexico



Gov. Gavin Newsom
State of California



Gov. Jared Polis
State of Colorado



Gov. Ned Lamont
State of Connecticut



Gov. JB Pritzker
State of Illinois



Gov. Janet Mills
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