



Connecticut General Assembly
SENATE DEMOCRATS

Legislative Office Building, Room 3300
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

August 28, 2019

Commissioner Melissa McCaw
Office of Policy and Management
450 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Commissioner McCaw,

Over the past year the Senate Democratic Caucus worked closely with the House Democratic caucus, the Office of Policy and Management, and Governor Lamont to pass a biennial budget which provided critical funding for education, towns and cities, job training, and families in need. We listened to and worked together with different people and organizations from across the state to best address their needs and desires. We are proud of our results from this past legislative session and we look forward to another productive session in 2020.

However, there was one individual whose actions none of us could have predicted and planned for in this budget: President Donald Trump.

For more than 40 years, federally funded Title X family planning clinics across America have ensured access to a broad range of family planning and related health services for millions of low-income or uninsured individuals, including breast and cervical cancer detection, screening and treatment; treatment for sexually transmitted diseases; HIV testing, and contraception.

President Trump recently pushed for a change to Title X Funding that prohibits Title X health care providers from counseling patients about abortion. The rule was announced in February, and it is currently being challenged in court in 20 states. A federal appeals court ruled last month that the policy changes can take effect even as these lawsuits are pending.

In response, Planned Parenthood of Southern New England -- which operates 12 health clinics in Connecticut -- has withdrawn from Title X and will forgo the estimated \$2.1 million in federal Title X funding which it receives.

We write to you today to say that this \$2.1 million is a priority for the Senate Democratic Caucus and we hope we can come to a joint solution with the Office of Policy and

Management to find this funding for Planned Parenthood within the state's Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

In addition, the Senate Democratic caucus plans to make the provision of funding to offset President Trump's attack on women's health a major priority in adjusting the Fiscal Year 2021 budget in the next session.

In Connecticut in 2017, nearly 44,000 patients received services through Title X funding. We will not stand by as President Trump attacks thousands of innocent people in our state and continues his assault on women and essential health care.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to working with you on this critical issue. Sincerely,



Senate President Pro Tempore Martin M. Looney
11th Senate District



Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff
25th Senate District



Senator John Fonfara
1st Senate District



Senator Doug McCrory
2nd Senate District



Senator Saud Anwar
3rd Senate District



Senator Matt Lesser
9th Senate District



Senator Steve Cassano
4th Senate District



Senator Christine Cohen
12th Senate District



Senator Derek Slap
5th Senate District



Senator James Maroney
14th Senate District



Senator Gary Winfield
10th Senate District



Senator Marilyn Moore
22nd Senate District



Senator Mary Abrams
13th Senate District



Senator Julie Kushner
24th Senate District


Senator Cathy Osten
19th Senate District


Senator Dennis Bradley
23rd Senate District


Senator Carlo Leone
27th Senate District


Senator Mae Flexer
29th Senate District


Senator Norm Needleman
33rd Senate District


Senator Will Haskell
26th Senate District