



Report on the State of Women's Health Policy 2018:

Trump-Pence Administration and the 115th Congress
Outlook and 1st Session Wrap-Up



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I. Executive Summary

As Congress kicks off the 2018 legislative session, anti-women's health majorities in the House and Senate and the Trump-Pence administration are signaling they will continue their assault on women's health and rights in new and unprecedented ways.

This underscores the fact that these politicians are not listening, at all, to what voters want and to the larger conversation this country has been having over how to treat women equally, and how to uphold the core values that women and men should have control over their own bodies, their health, and their future.

In an unprecedented year that had women demanding nothing less than full equality and control over their bodies – in the halls of Congress, at work, at school, at home, and in society – as well as powerful men being held accountable for their actions, in addition to heightened public awareness about the fundamental rights of women and men being able to control their future, these politicians still kept trying to impose their beliefs on voters and attack health care and bodily autonomy.

Each time the attacks on individual freedoms and health care intensified, the resistance and call for opposition rose to meet them.

In short, Congress and the Trump-Pence administration should learn the lessons of 2017 and not repeat them in 2018.

But they won't.

By the numbers:

2,700

events and actions held

Over 350,000

calls to Congress

1.5 million

petition signatures delivered to Congress

Over 200,000

new volunteers

More than 90,000

PP defenders signed up online

More than 400,000

actions taken by PP defenders

"Today, and everyday, I stand with Planned Parenthood and everyone who supports women's access to quality, affordable health care services."

- Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY)
[Facebook Post, 3/1/17]

Looking Forward

During the second session of the 115th Congress, anti-women's health majorities in the House and Senate and the Trump-Pence administration will continue their assault on women's health and rights.

Five key things to look for in 2018:

1

Attacks on care at Planned Parenthood health centers will mostly shift from Congress to direct actions from the Trump-Pence administration.

With the election of Doug Jones (D-AL) to the Senate, congressional Republicans have lost the votes necessary to "defund" Planned Parenthood in Congress, which would prohibit all Medicaid patients from coming to Planned Parenthood health centers for care.

Unfortunately, the Trump-Pence administration still has a number of mechanisms at its disposal to undermine millions of women's access to care at Planned Parenthood health centers – notably attacks on the Title X program. HHS political leadership is widely expected to take administrative action in the near future to interfere with access to basic preventive health care under Title X, such as birth control, STI/HIV services, and cancer screenings.

2

Efforts to undermine reproductive health access for women worldwide will continue

through attempts to legislatively codify or further expand the [global gag rule](#) and slash funding for international family planning programs.

3

Essential safety net programs like Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security are on the menu in 2018.

At the end of 2017, Congress passed tax legislation that will radically increase the deficit, providing anticipated justification for making significant cuts to social safety net programs. Medicaid provides insurance coverage to [one in five women](#) of reproductive age and more than [16 million women](#) ages 19-64; thus, an attack on the program would undermine women's equitable access to health care.

4

Opponents of abortion will advance abortion bans, despite the small chance of passing any into law.

The Senate may take up the House-passed 20-week abortion ban, and both chambers may consider new abortion restrictions or bills allowing discrimination against abortion providers and limiting their patients' ability to make their own personal medical decisions. With the strong opposition to attacks on women's health care, anti-women's health members of Congress will have an even more difficult time enacting their agenda legislatively next year.

5

So many new volunteers and supporters joined the movement to protect women's health care that in 2018 Planned Parenthood is expanding its existing volunteer programs.

Planned Parenthood organizations are launching new, volunteer-led efforts to bolster and utilize new volunteer leaders to organize local communities, educate their neighbors about the importance of access to Planned Parenthood and women's health care, and fight upcoming attacks on reproductive health and rights for years to come. In 2018, PPFA and Planned Parenthood Action Fund (PPAF) are training and providing resources to 1,000 volunteer leaders to lead 600 volunteer action teams. These teams will organize their communities to protect and expand women's health.

Five Notable Trends in 2017:

1

Congress spent most of 2017 pursuing legislation to “defund” Planned Parenthood and failed due to tremendous grassroots organizing and resistance. Trumpcare, in each of its iterations, was the worst bill for women’s health in a generation and would have blocked millions from accessing birth control, cancer screenings, and other basic health care at Planned Parenthood health centers, eliminated protections for the millions with pre-existing conditions, eliminated the guarantee of maternity coverage, and newborn care, and allowed insurers to discriminate against women.

Due to the monumental opposition to these proposals, led in part by Planned Parenthood’s growing army of 11 million supporters, the various iterations of Trumpcare failed to pass in Congress. The failed efforts by congressional leadership engaged millions of people around the country ahead of the 2018 elections.

2

At a moment of unprecedented progress, the actions of the Trump-Pence administration threaten that progress. The United States is experiencing a 30-year low in the rate of unintended pregnancies; an all-time low in the rate of unintended teen pregnancy; and the lowest rate of abortion since *Roe v. Wade* was decided, as a result of increased access to effective and affordable birth control. Around the world, new HIV diagnoses have declined significantly among adolescent girls and young women in 10 African countries thanks to targeted investments in comprehensive, evidence-based prevention programs. Unfortunately, in order to advance its ideological agenda, the Trump-Pence administration has made policy decisions that will move health care backwards – and is poised to adopt more in 2018.

The Trump-Pence administration has:

- **Issued a rule to eliminate the guarantee of birth control coverage:** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a rule that allows employers, schools, and other entities to deny employees or students insurance plan coverage of birth control on the unprecedentedly broad basis of religious or moral objection, undermining millions of women’s freedom to decide when to have a family.
- **Expanded the global gag rule:** In its first few days, the Trump-Pence administration took direct aim at vulnerable women and their families around the world by reinstating and, for the first time in history, expanding the already dangerous policy. The expanded global gag rule bars international organizations from using private resources to counsel, refer, provide, or advocate for legal abortion as a condition of receiving any U.S. global health funding.
- **Undermined family planning and basic health care for 4 million people:** The Title X program is the nation’s largest program dedicated to birth control and serves more than four million people each year with birth control, cancer screenings, STD testing and treatment, and well-woman exams. Yet Vice President Mike Pence took direct aim at the program, casting the tie-breaking vote in the Senate to dismantle President Barack Obama’s rule protecting access to basic health care services through Title X. President Donald Trump then signed the bill into law behind closed doors.
- **Quietly cut \$214 million from teen education programs:** The current team at HHS quietly cut \$214 million from evidence-based teen education programs and research. The president also proposed to eliminate the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP), while instead promoting funding for harmful abstinence-only programs.

These actions threaten to undermine the progress we have made in the U.S. and around the world.

3

The Trump-Pence administration has appointed anti-women's health nominees to key positions who, unchecked, will continue to advance harmful agendas in 2018.

The administration is stacked with officials who do not believe in and oppose the use of birth control; who have regularly touted scientifically and medically inaccurate information; and have made clear they fundamentally oppose women's health care and care for LGBTQ individuals. These nominees have already made clear that they will pursue an ideological agenda at all costs – like unconstitutionally blocking young immigrant women from accessing safe, legal abortion; encouraging abstinence-only programs; and targeting more than 62 million women's access to birth control coverage.

4

The Trump-Pence administration dangerously tried to ban language and erase LGBTQ identities in 2017.

In December 2017, in an unprecedented and dangerous move, the Trump-Pence administration prohibited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from using seven key words and phrases: "vulnerable," "entitlement," "diversity," "transgender," "fetus," "evidence-based" and "science-based." Additionally, in March 2017, HHS began to eliminate questions on [certain surveys](#) related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Eliminating data collection on LGBTQ people enables the Department's unequal treatment for health disparities toward this population. These actions paint a stark picture of this administration's intent to control language as well as combat evidence and science, and illustrate its agenda for the year to come.

5

Anti-women's health members of Congress lost ground in 2017, but continue to push their extreme agenda.

There was a decrease in the number of anti-women's health members of Congress in the 115th Congress compared to the prior Congress, and during the course of the year, particularly in the Senate, passage of anti-women's health legislation became less likely. But extreme members of Congress continued to introduce harmful legislation and dangerous policy riders to various budget and tax bills in 2017.

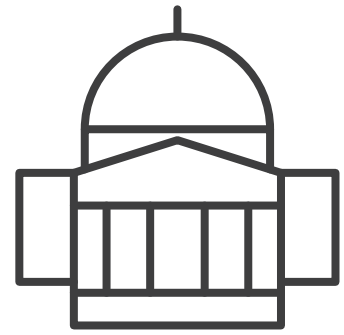
In fall 2017, the House passed H.R. 36, legislation to make it illegal for a woman to have an abortion at 20 weeks – even if she is experiencing dangerous health complications as a result of her pregnancy – and criminalize doctors for performing the procedure. Anti-women's health members of Congress continue to push for these bills – and the extreme agenda they are part of – despite the fact that they are not likely to pass the Senate and are deeply unpopular with the public.

"I think defunding Planned Parenthood disrespects every woman in our country, disrespects her judgment to make her own decision about the size and timing of her family, within her family, with herself, her doctor, her God, her family, and so I think that respect, respecting the dignity and worth of every person and their ability to make decisions to answer for their behavior."

- House Democratic Leader
Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-12)

[Press Conference , 6/29/17]

Congress by the Numbers



14

anti-women's health votes

6

votes to "defund" Planned Parenthood

1

pro-women's health votes



Pro-Women's Health



Anti-Women's Health

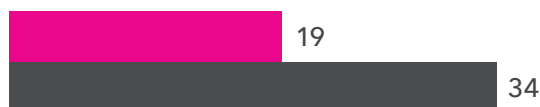
VOTES



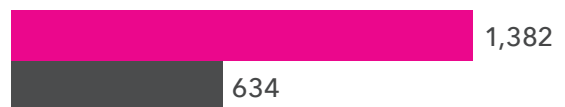
FLOOR STATEMENTS



BILLS INTRODUCED



SOCIAL MEDIA MENTIONS



A Comparison of the 114th and 115th Congresses

These positions are based on candidates' congressional records as well as statements made during the election.

As of January 10, 2018



	HOUSE		SENATE		
POSITION	114th	115th*	114th	115th (1st session)	115th (2nd session)
Pro	187	190	47	50	51
Anti	248	242	53	50	49

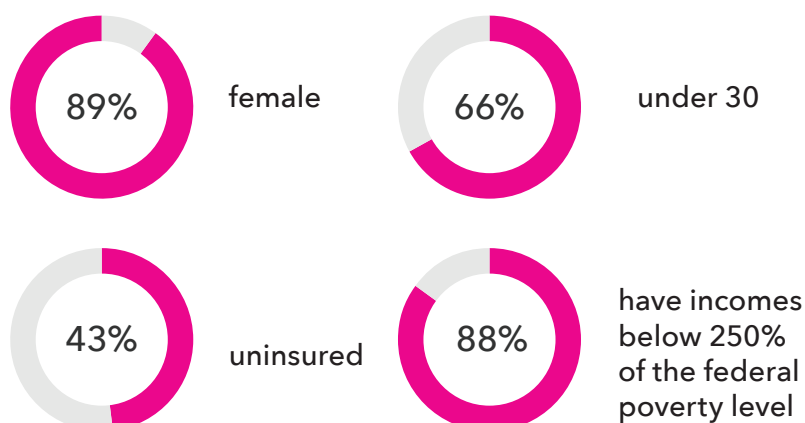
*Pending outcome of special elections in AZ-08, MI-13, & PA-18

Trump/Pence Administration by the Numbers

People impacted by executive actions

Birth Control 62.4 million women

Title X 4 million people

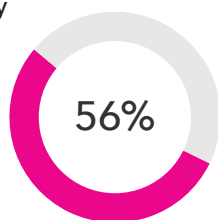


White	54%
Black or African American	21%
Hispanic or Latino	32%
Asian	3%
Either Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander or American Indian or Alaska Native	1%

Sources: Fowler, C. I., Gable, J., Wang, J., & Lasater, B. (2017, August). Family Planning Annual Report: 2016 national summary. Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International.

Medicaid Over 16 million women (ages 19-64)

In 2014, women comprised the majority of the adults.

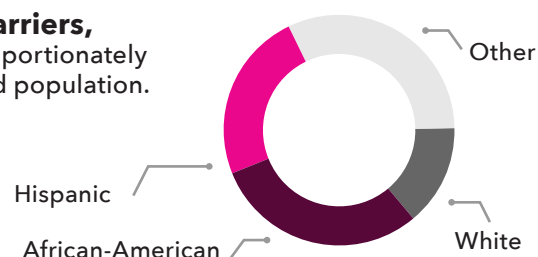


Roughly (67%) of adult women on Medicaid are in their reproductive years (19 to 49).

Approx. 20% of women of reproductive age rely on Medicaid to access no-cost, critical reproductive health care such as birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings, and maternity care.

Medicaid is the largest payer of reproductive health care coverage, paying for nearly half of all births in the United States and 75% of family planning services.

Due to systemic barriers, women of color disproportionately comprise the Medicaid population.





II. Introduction

On January 5, 2017, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI-01) announced that the GOP would block Medicaid enrollees from accessing preventative care, like STI testing, birth control, and cancer screenings, at Planned Parenthood health centers by “defunding” the organization.

At that time, the widely held view was that Planned Parenthood would be “defunded” by the spring. The fact that congressional Republicans failed in their efforts to “defund” Planned Parenthood and no longer have the votes in Congress to do so is a testament to the tremendous grassroots energy that awakened around the country. By the end of 2017, Planned Parenthood affiliates opened more 20 new health centers, expanded abortion access in areas of need and expanded digital access points for people to receive reproductive health care.

From the Women’s March in January and the rise of the #MeToo movement to disruptive elections in Virginia and Alabama, 2017 has been a year defined by resistance. It is no surprise that resistance made the word “feminism” the Merriam-Webster’s [Word of the Year](#). People – especially women, led by women of color – from across the country have stood up to say enough is enough. Enough controlling women’s bodies. Enough imposing religious views on others. Enough denying women anything less than full equality – at work, at school, at home, and in society.

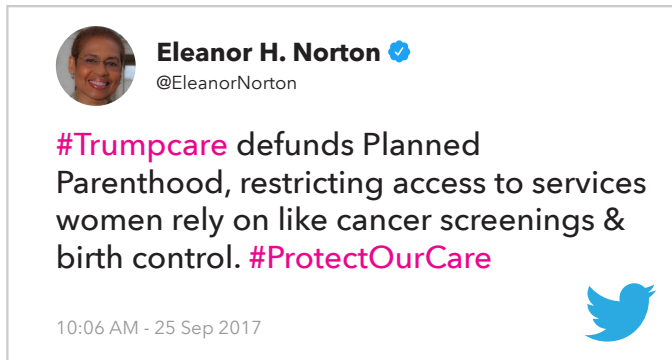
“Virtually every week, women across the country are waking up to news that their rights and access to care are being stripped away by politicians at the state and federal levels.

Between the unprecedented defunding of Planned Parenthood in the President’s proposed budget, expanding the global gag rule, blocking access to low-cost birth control, and much more, the onslaught has been relentless. This has to stop.”

- Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO-01)

[Facebook Post, 7/20/17]

For the first time in a decade, women's health opponents not only controlled Congress but also had Trump as an ally in the White House, ready to sign any anti-women's health legislation they sent to him and to implement his own complementary agenda. What these opponents didn't expect was millions of people across the country standing up to



these attacks. From the bluest states in this country to the reddest states, people took a stand against attacks on women's health in 2017, and it's working.

While the unprecedented attacks on Planned Parenthood and women that defined the 114th Congress have continued into the 115th Congress – and people across the country have lost the security of former President Obama's veto pen – supporters of women's health continue to persist. Despite Congress attempting to “defund” Planned Parenthood six times this year, Planned Parenthood persisted and defeated attempts to cut off access to quality health care.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) has gained more than 1.5 million new supporters since January 2017, totaling more than 11 million supporters nationwide. Many of those supporters – new and old – took action this year. In fact, Planned Parenthood gained more than 200,000 new volunteers nationwide. For months, an army of pink-clad Planned Parenthood patients, supporters, and advocates organized thousands of actions from coast to coast – including rallies, speak-outs at congressional town halls, phone banks, petition deliveries to congressional offices, and field hearings.

And while many efforts to erode access to care were blocked in Congress, the Trump-Pence administration has done everything in its power to undermine women's bodily autonomy in the U.S. and around the world.

In December 2017, it was reported that the administration was directing staff at the CDC, along with other HHS staff, not to use certain words (fetus, transgender, vulnerable, entitlement, diversity, science-based, and evidence-based) in budget documents. At the same time, it came to light that HHS was withholding public comments supportive of abortion and LGBTQ rights submitted in response to a request for information regarding the participation of religious organizations in HHS programs. Together, these actions paint a stark picture of this administration's intent to control language, combat evidence and science, and deny people access to information. The full impact of these efforts on people's lives and health outcomes won't be fully realized for some time, but there is no doubt that the Trump-Pence administration has reversed tremendous progress for women's health.

It has been a year of incredible triumphs, but also a year in which people's access to health care and the rights of women, people of color, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, immigrants, and youth, to name a few, were constantly under threat.

“Attacking Planned Parenthood hurts women in every district in every state in our country.”

- Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA-27)
[Facebook Post, 1/19/17]



III. What's Ahead in 2018?

During the second session of the 115th Congress, anti-women's health majorities in the House and Senate will likely continue their attacks on women's health.

They will no doubt continue to target Planned Parenthood health centers and reproductive and sexual health as part of federal spending bills as well as other legislation.

Additionally, perennial efforts to undermine reproductive health access for women worldwide will likely continue through attempts to legislatively codify or further expand the [global gag rule](#) and slash funding for international family planning programs. And some members of Congress will continue to attach harmful new anti-women's health policy riders onto spending bills that attempt to limit access to and coverage of the full range of reproductive health care services for people around the country.

Despite President Donald Trump's repeated [promises](#) that he would not support cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security, congressional leadership has made "[entitlement reform](#)" a top priority for 2018 – which could mean gutting public health programs that people with low incomes rely on. Congress passed tax legislation that will radically increase the deficit, providing anticipated justification for significant cuts to social safety net programs. It is not yet clear which specific policy proposals will be on the table, but given the attacks on the Medicaid program in this year's Affordable Care Act (ACA) repeal fight, yet another fight to protect Medicaid coverage for millions can be expected. Nothing would be more damaging to women's equitable access to health care than dismantling Medicaid. Medicaid provides insurance coverage to [one in five women](#) of reproductive age and more than [16 million women](#) ages 19-64.

Medicaid covers more than half of the nation's births and pays for approximately 75 percent of publicly funded family planning care. Also, despite this year's defeat, opponents of women's health will not give up on their

"If we care about women's health, we should work to reduce unintended pregnancies, expand access to contraception, and support maternal and children's health. Instead, the majority is slashing Medicaid, attacking Planned Parenthood, and passing bans."

- Rep. Brown (D-MD-04)
[Floor Statement, 10/4/17]

attempts to repeal the ACA in Congress or undermine the law through regulatory changes that have already begun to destabilize the insurance market. Trump signed an executive order calling for the creation of bare-bones health plans that would not have to meet ACA requirements, such as coverage for birth control, maternity care, or pre-existing conditions. In 2018, the administration can be expected to issue rules allowing these plans to be sold, potentially destabilizing the insurance market, resulting in increased costs for people across the country.

Senate leadership may take up the House-passed 20-week abortion ban. And both chambers may consider new abortion restrictions or bills that allow discrimination against abortion providers and limit their patients' ability to make their own personal medical decisions. Pro-women's health members will continue to stand strong in support of Planned Parenthood and women's health by introducing proactive legislation to expand services and ensure that patients and health care providers can access health centers without harassment or intimidation. Thankfully, with Doug Jones's (D-AL) election to the Senate, anti-women's health members of Congress will have an even more difficult time enacting their agenda legislatively next year.



Increasing attacks on sexual and reproductive health from the Trump-Pence administration are certain, and the unlikelihood of anything passing in Congress may further ramp up those attacks. While Congress may have failed to pass legislation prohibiting people with Medicaid from seeking care at Planned Parenthood health centers, conservative states are likely to try a state-by-state attack by seeking Medicaid waivers.

Other harmful changes to federal health programs are anticipated. A leaked internal [White House memo](#) lays out plans that would be horrific for reproductive and sexual health programs domestically and globally. Radical changes to the Title X Family Planning program as well as attacks from both Congress and the administration on the TPPP are imminent. These attacks will jeopardize access to care and education. Changes could include the promotion of natural family planning over information about the full range of family planning methods; ineffective and misleading "sexual risk avoidance" (i.e. abstinence-only) initiatives that withhold critical information and disempower young people from making healthy decisions about their sexual health; and further cuts and policy restrictions to undermine international family planning and HIV programs.

In October 2017, Planned Parenthood launched the #Fight4BirthControl campaign, which is designed to effectively raise awareness about all of the administration's attacks on birth control. The campaign includes core components around creative content, influencers, corporate engagement, and campus work that will continue to expand in 2018.

Over the next 12 months, PPFA & PPAF will build 600 intersectional, diverse, and strategic volunteer action teams around the country, in every state and in every community with a health center.



IV. 2017 Attacks in Congress and the Trump-Pence Administration

Attempts to “Defund” Planned Parenthood, Repeal the Affordable Care Act, and Gut Medicaid

In Congress

Congress spent most of 2017 pursuing legislation to block access to preventative care at Planned Parenthood health centers, repeal the ACA, and gut Medicaid. Trumpcare, in each of its iterations, was the worst bill for women’s health in a generation and would have cut off access to vital health care services, disproportionately affecting women who already face unfair barriers to care, especially women with low incomes and women of color. Trumpcare would have blocked millions from accessing birth control and cancer screenings at Planned Parenthood health centers, increased insurance premiums by 20 percent and taken away health insurance from tens of millions of Americans. **To combat this attack, in January 2017 Planned Parenthood launched the #IStandWithPP campaign – a vocal, persistent repudiation of Trumpcare from day one.**

For months, an army of pink-clad Planned Parenthood patients, supporters, and advocates organized thousands of actions from coast to coast – including rallies, speak-outs at congressional town halls, phone banks, petition deliveries to congressional offices, and field hearings.

In tandem, Planned Parenthood launched the “Defenders” digital organizing program three days after Trump’s inauguration, and more than 40,000 supporters signed up in the first 24 hours to take action in their communities to defend Planned Parenthood health centers from “defunding” and other attacks on health care. Over the course of the year, Defenders have taken more than 400,000 actions, and there are now more than 90,000 Defenders ready to act in 2018.

More than 1,000 Defenders participated in virtual phone banking to call more than 40,000 Planned Parenthood supporters in Nevada and West Virginia.

This effort helped put pressure on key senators in those states, and helped slow the Senate passage of Trumpcare. This was the first-ever effort of this scale to leverage remote volunteers for phone banking in key target states.

The pressure on members of the House was so great that, in March, House Speaker Paul Ryan was forced to pull his Trumpcare bill from the floor because it didn't have the votes necessary to pass. Unfortunately, on May 4, after much negotiation with his caucus, Speaker Ryan was able to cobble together the votes needed to narrowly pass the legislation by a vote of [217-213](#).

The path forward for legislation to repeal the ACA and defund Planned Parenthood was rocky in the Senate from the very beginning.

With a razor-thin 52-member majority, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had little room for error in finding the 51 votes needed to pass the bill. Finding the votes was especially complicated because Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) repeatedly expressed a number of substantive concerns, including their opposition to blocking Medicaid patients from accessing care at Planned Parenthood health centers.

Nonetheless, senate Republican leadership wrote its own version of ACA repeal and also included language to "defund" Planned Parenthood. After many vote postponements, the bill was finally brought before the Senate in late July 2017 and failed to pass.

Senate Republicans scrambled to draft a replacement and came up with what became known as "skinny repeal." The skinny repeal bill would have overturned key components of the ACA and, like each proposal that came before it, would have also "defunded" Planned Parenthood. After these many attempts, on the early morning of July 28, the effort failed once and for all.

The skinny repeal bill was defeated by a bipartisan vote of [51-49](#), with every Senate Democrat voting against the bill, along with Republican Senators John McCain (R-AZ), and Collins (R-ME) and Murkowski (R-AK), who stood strong in their opposition of efforts to block access to care at Planned Parenthood health centers.

Simply put, women stopped this devastating legislation in its tracks.

In another blow to the ACA, however, 2017

#TechStandsWithPP:

Last year on March 17 Tumblr CEO David Karp and Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards announced #TechStandsWithPP at SXSW, prompting 74 leaders and innovators in the tech industry to sign an open letter to congressional leaders urging them to reject attempts to deny millions of patients access to care at Planned Parenthood health centers. By the end of 2017, the list had grown to over 150 leaders in tech sharing vocal support for Planned Parenthood.

#FashionStandsWithPP:

For the 2017 New York Fashion week, the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) educated its members about the impact of attacks on access to care at Planned Parenthood health centers. CFDA created a pin that reads, "Fashion Stands with Planned Parenthood," which hundreds of designers – including Tracy Reese, Anna Wintour, Olivia Wilde, Diane von Furstenberg, Kate Spade New York, Tory Burch and Proenza Schouler – wore during Fashion Week shows and presentations.

OKCupid Stands with PP:

In September the dating site OkCupid introduced a #IStandWithPP badge to their website and app, providing supporters of reproductive rights and Planned Parenthood a clear way to spark a conversation and show support for equal rights, access to reproductive health care, and the best evidence-based sex education.

"I will not vote to deny Alaskans access to the health services that Planned Parenthood provides."

- Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)
[Address to Alaska State Legislature, 2/22/17]

ended with Congress enacting a dangerous tax proposal that eliminates the ACA's individual mandate, a critical provision of the ACA that could result in 13 million people losing access to health care coverage. Thanks to the ACA, nearly 10 million women gained health care coverage and the number of uninsured women was cut by nearly half. This tax reform law threatens to reverse that progress. In addition, the law will cost the federal government \$1.4 trillion dollars – a cost that will no doubt result in future attempts to cut public health programs, including Medicaid and Medicare.

The tax law did not pass without attempts to include anti-abortion language. A provision that would have defined the term “unborn child” in the tax code to allow people to put aside money for future children was removed from the final bill because it violates a procedural provision known as the Byrd rule. The parliamentary ruling made their agenda clear: to insert language into this bill solely to support relentless efforts to restrict access to safe, legal abortion. In fact, current law already allows people to create 529 accounts for their future children, making the proposed language unnecessary. The tax bill was another important moment of resistance when hundreds of thousands of people spoke out, made calls, visited elected officials’ offices, and shared their stories urging politicians to stop attacking access to affordable health care.



In 2017, hundreds of Planned Parenthood patients and supporters from across the country traveled to Washington D.C. to speak out against attempts to block access to care at Planned Parenthood and to repeal the ACA. Planned Parenthood patients were seen on television and in local and national major news outlets across the country, sharing their stories of how Planned Parenthood had been there for them.

The Trump-Pence Administration

What happened in Congress was simply one component of the fight against blocking access to care at Planned Parenthood health centers and dismantling the ACA and Medicaid program.

The Trump-Pence administration is positioned to allow states to prohibit people with Medicaid from seeking care at Planned Parenthood health centers and dismantle the Medicaid program more broadly. Texas has a Medicaid waiver pending before HHS that would invest federal Medicaid dollars into its failed Healthy Texas Women (HTW) program, which blocks patients from getting care at Planned Parenthood and other similar providers. Other states are likely to follow suit. Since the inception of Texas’ HTW program, [35 percent](#) fewer women have received the most effective methods of birth control, [27 percent](#) more births have occurred among women who previously had injectable contraception, and pregnancy-related deaths in Texas have [doubled](#). The Trump-Pence administration’s approval of this request would be unprecedented. Even the Bush administration indicated that it would not deny freedom of choice for family planning.

HHS has also indicated plans to drastically restructure the Medicaid program, such as allowing states to impose work requirements on enrollees. To date, [10 states](#) have Medicaid waivers pending before the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) that would allow them to impose work requirements on people enrolled in Medicaid. Work requirements will harm people with low-incomes, and women in particular – who represent [over half](#) of Medicaid enrollees – could lose coverage because of work requirements.

At the same time, the Trump-Pence administration has proposed undermining the requirement for insurers to cover basic care, such as maternity coverage. The administration also withdrew key funding that helps people with low incomes visit the doctor or access their prescriptions; halved the time period in which people could enroll in Obamacare plans; ceased advertising for affordable health care options available on Healthcare.gov while also cutting funding enrollment assistance; and reduced the requirement for insurers to have adequate provider networks and include trusted providers in their plan networks.



The Cancer Survivors Network for Planned Parenthood was founded in 2017 as a community of cancer survivors and those touched by cancer who believe in the important role Planned Parenthood plays in the prevention and detection of cancer. United against attacks by extreme politicians who want to eliminate access to care at Planned Parenthood health centers, members of the Cancer Survivors Network traveled to Washington D.C., to share their stories and protest attempts to block access to care at Planned Parenthood.

Despite efforts by the Trump-Pence administration to undermine the ACA, nearly nine million people signed up for coverage through Healthcare.gov during 2017 open enrollment. This means that nearly the same number of people enrolled as last year in half the time. Further, people still have the opportunity to enroll in certain state-based marketplaces or if they have experienced qualifying life events, such as marriage or relocation.

"Denying women access to Planned Parenthood not only runs contrary to our goal of letting patients choose the health care provider who best fits their needs, but it also could impede timely access to care."

- Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) [Floor statement, 7/27/17]

Protecting Access to Social Safety Net Programs

The anti-women's health administration and Congress have not only sought to dismantle the ACA, the most significant and historic legislation for women's health in a generation, but they have also attempted to undermine social safety net programs, such as family planning programs and evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs.

The United States is currently experiencing a 30-year low in the rate of unintended pregnancy and an all-time low in the rate of unintended teen pregnancy, thanks in large part to increased access to contraception and strong investments in scientific and evidenced-based programs such as the TPPP and the Title X Family Planning program. Four million people across the country rely on the Title X Family Planning program for essential health care like birth control, cancer screenings, STD testing and treatment, and well-woman exams. TPPP is a national, evidence-based program that funds diverse organizations working to prevent unintended teen pregnancy across the United States. These approaches cover a variety of programs, including abstinence education programs; sex education programs; youth development programs; clinic-based programs; and programs specifically designed for diverse populations and settings.

In Congress

While final spending decisions for FY 2018 haven't yet been made, the anti-women's health majority in the House again used the appropriations process to launch a full frontal attack on access to and coverage of reproductive health care. The

House passed appropriations bills this year that would eliminate funding for the Title X Family Planning program and TPPP; increase funding for abstinence-only education; and "defund" Planned Parenthood from all health care programs funded by the annual Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill (including Medicaid, Title X, TPPP, maternal and child health programs, and more).

And in addition to carrying longstanding harmful policy riders that deny insurance coverage of abortion for women enrolled in Medicaid, women who work for the federal government, women who live in the District of Columbia, and others, this year's House-passed appropriations bills include multiple new

harmful [policy riders](#) that seek to limit access to reproductive health care.

One bright spot in this year's appropriations process was the inclusion of strong language in the FY 2018 Senate Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill seeking to block dangerous attacks on Title X and TPPP by the Trump-Pence administration.

"I can't believe I still have to say this – but I'm going to keep saying it until Republicans really hear it: women should come before partisan politics.

That means it's well past time for extreme conservatives to stop trying to defund Planned Parenthood and cut off access to critical health care services that millions of patients – women and men – rely on."


- Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA),
[Facebook Post, 7/13/17]

The Trump-Pence Administration

At the same time, President Trump proposed an FY 2018 budget hostile to sexual and reproductive health, including a "policy rider" that intended to prohibit Planned Parenthood from participating in every HHS program, including Medicaid and Title X. Additionally, the president's budget proposed hundreds of billions of dollars in cuts to the Medicaid program by discontinuing the Medicaid expansion, while also permitting states to pursue harmful block grant or per-capita cap policies.

The president also proposed to eliminate TPPP, while promoting funding for harmful abstinence-only programs. In addition to continuing dangerous and unnecessary abortion riders such as the Hyde Amendment, the proposal added another new rider that would restrict abortion access for women in Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention.

Unfortunately, those weren't the only attacks on Title X. At the end of 2016, the Obama administration issued a rule [reinforcing existing protections](#) in the Title X Family Planning program that ensures the four million people who benefit have access to their choice of family planning provider, including Planned Parenthood and other women's health providers. In March, Congress used a tool called the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to rescind the Obama administration's rule. Congress was barely able to pass the CRA and required the tie-breaking vote of Vice President [Mike Pence](#). President Trump then [signed the bill into law](#). Not content to stop there, HHS cancelled existing Title X grants so that they would end within one year, regardless of their initial duration; HHS also cut TPPP grants short from five years to two years. Similarly, HHS eliminated Title X grants with key reproductive health research organizations.



"First, they came for Title X, scaling back the essential family planning centers that served low-income women. They attacked Planned Parenthood, pledging to block access for the millions of women who depend on it. They expanded the global gag rule, a policy that will limit the preventive health care options for women across the world. Then, they turned their destructive sights on Title IX, scaling back crucial guidances that protect sexual assault victims on our college campuses. Now, they have opened the door for bosses to deny contraceptive coverage for their female employees."

- Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA-53) [Floor Statement, 10/11/17]

Threats to Abortion Access

In Congress

In keeping with anti-abortion efforts in previous House sessions, anti-abortion leadership opened the 115th session with a January vote on H.R. 7, the deceptively named "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act." This bill, passed around the *Roe v. Wade* anniversary, is part of an agenda to politicize women's access to health care, which played out throughout the first session of the 115th Congress. The bill would deny access to health insurance coverage that includes abortion by taking away important tax benefits from families, including tax deductions and premium tax credits to help pay for the cost of health care.

Other notable legislation:

- **20-Week Ban:** This past fall, the House passed H.R. 36, legislation to ban abortion at 20 weeks gestation. This legislation would make it illegal for a woman to have an abortion at 20 weeks even if she is experiencing severe, dangerous health complications as a result of her pregnancy. It would also subject doctors to criminal penalties for performing a safe, legal medical procedure.
- **Six-Week Ban:** The House also introduced and held a hearing on unconstitutional and dangerous legislation that would prevent a woman from having an abortion as early as six weeks, before many women even realize they are pregnant.

The Trump-Pence Administration

Under the Trump-Pence administration, the government itself, through the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) within HHS, has used its considerable power to try to block immigrant young women in its care from accessing abortion. Many of these minors are survivors of sexual violence either in their country of origin or during their trip across the border. ORR Director Scott Lloyd has personally intervened in young women's abortion decisions, contacting the women personally, ordering that all abortion decisions go through him personally, and directing that they be taken to crisis pregnancy centers, anti-women's health nonprofits that often manipulate women and provide inaccurate information about abortion.

When this unconstitutional and harmful policy came to light because of the attempts by one young woman – known as Jane Doe – to get an abortion in October, the administration went to court to defend its policy. The Department of Justice (DOJ) went so far as to imply that women in ORR's custody did not have a right to abortion. After the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in Jane Doe's favor, she was finally able to get an abortion. However, as of December 2017, ORR continues to try to prevent young women in its custody from getting abortions, using the full power of the United States government to restrict their access to health care. In December, two additional young immigrants were forced to go to court to get the abortions they needed, and court documents revealed that Lloyd had denied one young woman's request for an abortion despite the fact that the pregnancy was the result of rape.

Undermining Access to Birth Control

The Trump-Pence Administration

In October, HHS, along with the Department of Labor and the Internal Revenue Service, issued two interim final rules that would allow virtually any employer, college or university that claims a religious or moral objection to deny contraceptive coverage to its employees or students. These rules eliminate the ACA guarantee of access to the full range of birth control options without any out of pocket costs – a guarantee that has benefited 62.4 million women.

More than [500,000 people](#) submitted comments to HHS in opposition to the administration's attack on birth control coverage. Many members of Congress joined women across the country, Planned Parenthood, and reproductive health care advocates in expressing strong opposition to these rules. Legislation has been introduced in both the House ([H.R. 4082](#)) and the Senate ([S. 1985](#)) to strike the rules, and [189 House members](#) and [37 senators](#) called on the Trump-Pence administration to rescind the rules in comment letters to HHS. Additionally, a growing number of business leaders are making a public pledge to guarantee their employees' birth control coverage as a part of [Planned Parenthood's #BusinessForBC](#) campaign. Medical experts and public health leaders like the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Public Health Association have also come out in opposition to the rules.

A number of state Attorneys General filed suit against the rules, and several more [spoke out](#) against the rules. On December 15, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania issued a preliminary injunction in the case brought by Pennsylvania Attorney General, Josh Shapiro, temporarily halting enforcement of the rules nationwide.

In her ruling, Judge Wendy Beetlestone cited the half million comments as evidence of the widespread public interest in the rules and evidence that the administration violated proper procedure by surpassing the legally required period to hear from the public. The Court went on to find that the rules would lead to irreparable harm to the impacted women, and women would either forego birth control entirely or choose less effective contraceptive methods.

The next week, on December 21, a second judge, in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, issued a [second ruling](#) blocking enforcement of the rules. That case was brought by the California Attorney General Xavier Becerra, joined by Delaware Attorney General Matthew Denn, Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh, New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, and Virginia Attorney General Mark Herring. Massachusetts and Washington have also brought legal challenges to the rules, as have a number of women's rights organizations.

DEFENDER

Planned Parenthood Defenders (digital organizers) and other volunteer organizers mobilized a massive opposition to fight back against this attack on birth control.

In the last week of November, a series of tweets by Defenders went viral, driving more than 250,000 people to the birth control fight via text message. These tweets generated hundreds of thousands of engagements by Twitter users. In addition to taking action online, more than 400 Defenders signed up to organize door-to-door canvasses to collect comments for birth control.

Through peer-to-peer texting, more than 102 of these Defenders and other volunteers responded, attending the training webinar, engaging in canvassing and other offline conversations to collect comments.

Planned Parenthood's top performing Twitter post for the year was on this very issue, with over two million impressions and 70,000 engagements:



Using Religion to Discriminate

In Congress

Members of Congress renewed their efforts to pass the Conscience Protection Act, either as stand-alone legislation or as part of the appropriations process. This harmful legislation includes sweeping new religious refusal language that would allow employers, insurers, and health care providers to deny others access to abortion. Specifically, the Conscience Protection Act would threaten patient safety by allowing health care entities to refuse to “facilitate,” “make arrangements for,” or “otherwise participate in” abortions even where a woman’s health is in danger. It would allow hospitals, doctors, nurses, and other health care providers to determine a patient’s care based on the provider’s religious beliefs, not based on what is best for the patient’s health and circumstances.


This could result in hospitals turning away women in emergency situations, and refusing to provide accurate information that would allow women to make informed decisions and seek treatment elsewhere. The provision would also allow employers to interfere with women’s and LGBTQ people’s health insurance coverage for abortion, depriving people of the comprehensive coverage they need to make personal medical decisions.

The Trump-Pence Administration

In May, President Trump issued an executive order calling for the protection of “religious liberty,” specifically referencing the ACA’s birth control benefit. In October, on the same day that the administration issued the birth control rules, the DOJ issued [guidance](#) requiring all federal agencies to reconsider their practices in employment, rulemaking, enforcement, contracting, and distribution of grants.

The DOJ Guidance may allow and encourage discrimination in the delivery of health care on the basis of religion, and even implies that discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation may be permissible in employment and potentially other settings. Later in October, HHS issued a request for information (RFI) calling on the public to weigh in on additional protections needed to allow faith-based organizations to fully participate in HHS programs.

There have been recent [reports](#) that the Trump-Pence administration – releasing only 80 of more than 10,000 comments – has withheld comments critical of their attacks on abortion, birth control, and transgender policies. Through the birth control rules and ORR’s imposition of its own beliefs on young women, the damage that can be done when individual beliefs are allowed to trump women’s access to health care has been on full display. The full implications of these actions remain to be seen, but the attacks on reproductive health are just the beginning.



“I will vote no on #TrumpCare. I will vote no for the 24 million people who will lose their coverage. I will vote no for the 14,914,000 people who will lose their coverage under the Medicaid expansion. I will vote no for the millions of low-income women who rely on services from Planned Parenthood. I will vote no for the tens of thousands of people who will literally die every year if the Republicans succeed in repealing the ACA.”

- Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA-07) [House Floor Statement, 3/23/17]

Attacks on LGBTQ People

The Trump-Pence Administration

In addition to the religious refusal provisions—which not only threaten sexual and reproductive health but also the lives of LGBTQ people—the Trump-Pence administration has directly attacked transgender people in particular, in other ways. Within a month of confirming Tom Price as Secretary of HHS, the department began to eliminate questions on [certain surveys](#) related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Eliminating data collection on LGBTQ people would help mask HHS's unequal treatment for health disparities toward this population.

Led by Attorney General Jeff Sessions, DOJ has been particularly active in this area. In February, DOJ [rescinded guidance](#) put in place under the Obama administration that required schools to treat transgender students in accordance with their gender identity under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. In October, Sessions issued a [memo](#) implying that transgender people are not protected from employment discrimination. And DOJ has indicated that it will be [issuing revised rules](#) in a lawsuit challenging anti-discrimination provisions of the ACA. DOJ also [filed a brief](#) in a case now before the United States Supreme Court that defends the right of a Colorado bakery to refuse to make a cake for a gay couple. President Trump has made clear his own disdain for transgender people clear by [tweeting a policy](#) edict preventing them from serving in the military. That policy is currently [prevented](#) from taking effect, thanks to a court.

Global Sexual and Reproductive Health Access

The Trump-Pence Administration

As one of its first acts in office, the Trump-Pence administration took direct aim at vulnerable women and their families around the world by reinstating and, for the first time in history, expanding the dangerous global gag rule – also known as the Mexico City Policy. The global gag rule prevents international organizations from receiving any U.S. global health assistance if they provide, counsel, refer or advocate for abortion services.

Then, in April 2017, the Trump-Pence administration issued a determination under the Kemp-Kasten Amendment to withhold U.S. funding for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) a move that will cost millions of women around the world access to critical health care. Defunding UNFPA was soon followed by the release of the President's Budget proposal in May 2017, in which the administration proposed eliminating the entire international family planning and reproductive health program.

In Congress

Following the administration's lead, congressional attacks on global reproductive health intensified this year. Both the House and Senate included Trump's expanded global gag rule in the base of their annual appropriations bills, marking the first time Congress has tried to legislatively codify this massive expansion that would prohibit



Rep. Joe Crowley ✓

@repjoecrowley

Reproductive health is a universal right.
@UNFPA is highlighting the need to
#EmpowerWomen unfpa.org/swop
#SWOP2017

3:48 PM - 17 Oct 2017



foreign non-governmental organizations receiving U.S. global health assistance from counseling, referring, providing, or advocating for abortion. Further, both chambers proposed cuts to international family planning programs by nearly \$150 million.

The House voted to prohibit U.S. funding to UNFPA, which provides life-saving maternal and reproductive health services to those facing humanitarian crises and conflict as well as poor communities in more than 150 countries. Fortunately, the Senate Appropriations Committee rejected these attacks, with bipartisan support for an amendment introduced by Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) to repeal the global gag rule and restore funding for international family planning programs and UNFPA. But these attacks remain on the agenda and could be used in other legislation in 2018.



**House Foreign Affairs
Committee Democrats** 

@HFACDemocrats

.@RepEliotEngel: These are the consequences of **#Trump's #globalgag**: family planning is cut off, STD tests stop, health clinics close. And it will only get worse. We must pass **#GlobalHERAct** & end this policy.

8:49 AM - 9 Nov 2017



"I believe that the actions that this administration has taken are systematically going to add suffering to women and families around the world. Right off the bat – eliminating funding for global family planning and reproductive health...prohibiting contributions to UNFPA...and expanding the global gag rule."

- Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL-21) [Foreign Affairs Committee, 9/27/17]



V. Judicial Nominations and Administration Appointments

The White House has chosen and the Senate has confirmed nominees for powerful positions and lifetime appointments who are hostile to reproductive and sexual health care and civil rights. From the administrative appointment and nominations process to the selection and confirmation of hostile judges, 2017 has altered the federal agencies and the courts that have previously enforced and upheld the protections for the health and rights of individuals.

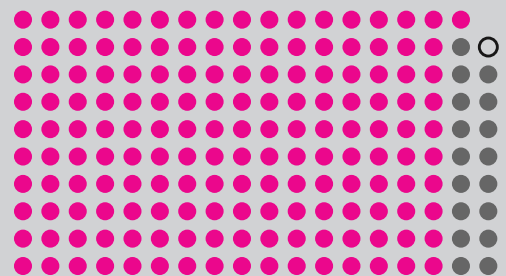
President Trump's Judicial Nominees Threaten to Change the National Legal Landscape for Women

Across the country, the courts are often the only check on lawmakers determined to interfere with women's health care decisions. During the [first six months of this year](#), legislators in six states introduced measures to ban all abortions, and legislators in 28 states have introduced measures to ban abortions under some circumstances, many of which should be struck down under the Supreme Court's decision in *Whole Woman's Health*. Many of these states also have federal court vacancies – future judges who could decide the fate of women's health and lives in their states.

The courts have also stopped the Trump-Pence administration from implementing some of its most dangerous policies,

U.S. Court of Appeals*:

179 judgeships



17 vacancies 1 pending nomination

Many of these vacancies are a result of the Senate's refusal to confirm former President Obama's nominations after the Senate came under Republican control in 2015.

The United States courts of appeals are considered among the most powerful and influential courts in the United States. Because of their ability to set legal precedent in regions that cover millions of people, the United States courts of appeals have strong influence on U.S. law. Moreover, because the U.S. Supreme Court chooses to review less than 2 percent of the more than 7,000 to 8,000 annual cases filed, the U.S. courts of appeals serve as the final arbiter on most federal issues. Planned Parenthood is committed to fighting these nominees, especially at the Circuit court level, due to their immense impact on reproductive and sexual health and rights.

* As of January 8, 2018, uscourts.gov

including reversal of the ACA birth control coverage guarantee to ORR's denial of access to abortion to Trump's ban on transgender troops. Trump's ability to stack the courts will give him further license to impose his agenda.

The first judicial fight took place with the nomination of now-Supreme Court

Nominee Neil Gorsuch, nominated on January 31. The seat was vacated with former Justice Antonin Scalia's passing nearly a year before, for which former President Obama had nominated D.C. Circuit Court Judge Merrick Garland. His nomination was blocked by the anti-women's health majority in the Senate.



PPFA opposed Gorsuch's nomination based on his alarming history of interference with reproductive rights and health, including women's access to birth control and care at Planned Parenthood. Prior to serving on the Supreme Court, Gorsuch sided with politicians who wanted the state of Utah to block access to health care and education for thousands of Planned Parenthood's patients. If this policy had gone into effect, it would have cut off access to an after-school sex education program for teens and STD testing and treatment for at-risk communities. He has also ruled in favor of letting employers deny their employees birth control coverage: Gorsuch ruled in favor of the idea that corporations are people and believes that bosses should be able to impede their employees' access to birth control. In fact, Gorsuch has made clear he would go even further than the Hobby Lobby decision in blocking employees' access to insurance coverage for birth control. On April 7, Gorsuch was confirmed to the Supreme Court with a 54-45 vote.



Seventh Circuit Court Judge Amy Coney Barrett:

Amy Coney Barrett, confirmed on October 31 with a vote of 55-43, has been very active and vocal in her opposition to reproductive rights. In addition to serving as a [member](#) of the Notre Dame's Faculty for Life Group from 2010 to 2016, Barrett has held critical views of *Roe v. Wade* and even said that judges should not follow the law if it clashes with their religious beliefs. She opposes the ACA's birth control [mandate](#) and believes employers should have a say in women's personal health care decisions.



Eighth Circuit Court Judge Leonard Steven Grasz:

Steven Grasz, confirmed on December 12 by a vote of 50-48, is an extreme anti-abortion nominee who has been rated unqualified by the American Bar Association (ABA). As an active opponent of reproductive rights, Grasz has likened the rights of a fetus to that of the civil rights of people of color. Grasz's writings have supported so-called fetal personhood to expand the legal rights of the fetus, and he has even used these arguments to restrict access to birth control. Grasz is a member of the board of directors of the Nebraska Family Alliance – an anti-women's health group that extensively advocates against reproductive rights and supports so-called "conversion therapy."



Fifth Circuit Court Judge Don Willett:

Don Willett has a long career of taking hostile views on women's health and LGBTQ rights. As a Texas Supreme Court justice, he completed a candidate questionnaire disagreeing with the idea that the *Roe v. Wade* decision was correctly decided, and was endorsed by an anti-abortion organization. Willett has dismissed efforts to address inequality for women in the workplace and disparaged the right of LGBTQ people to marry, when he joked about wanting the "right to marry bacon" in a tweet from 2015. Willett was confirmed by the Senate on December 13 by a vote of 50-47.

Extreme Administration Appointees

From its start, the Trump-Pence administration has made clear its disdain for women, people of color, immigrants, LGBTQ people, science, and sexual and reproductive health. Nothing has made that more obvious than Trump's selection of extreme, unqualified, anti-women's health personnel. Then-candidate Trump selected Mike Pence, who originated legislation to "defund" Planned Parenthood in Congress and has a lengthy record of hostility to reproductive health as governor of Indiana. Once in office, Trump chose former member of Congress Tom Price (R-GA) to serve as the Secretary of HHS. Price has made a career of attacking Planned Parenthood, a women's right to health care, and LGBTQ people. Price's opportunity to do damage, however, was cut short when he was forced to resign after he had taken numerous chartered flights at taxpayer expense.

The HHS Secretary position is now open. Alex Azar, a former Eli Lilly executive and Bush administration official, was nominated to fill that position and he is expected to have a confirmation hearing before the Senate Finance Committee in January. Until then, Planned Parenthood will continue to drive attention to existing personnel and pressure Azar to start with a clean slate.

There are many other dangerous individuals who are running our public health programs and developing and implementing harmful policy:



Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs Teresa Manning

Teresa Manning is in charge of Title X, the nation's family planning program that provides care to four million people. And yet, Manning has said birth control doesn't work and believes the federal government has no role in contraception. She has said:

"I always shake my head. You know, family planning is something that occurs between a husband and a wife and God, and it doesn't really involve the federal government, much less the United Nations, where we hear about family planning all the time. What are they doing in that business?" - [C-SPAN, Jan. 21, 2003](#)



HHS Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs Charmaine Yoest

Charmaine Yoest, the chief spokesperson for the agency, is a long-time anti-abortion activist and touts claims that abortion causes breast cancer.

"[T]here is a connection – I feel confident in stating that – between abortion and breast cancer." - [Charmaine Yoest, 2015 Presentation at Conservative Political Action Conference](#)



Director of Office of Refugee Resettlement Scott Lloyd

He has spent his legal career trying to deny women access to reproductive and sexual health care, including serving on the board of an organization designed to counsel women against having an abortion. He is in charge of the health and lives of young immigrants entering the United States and has been actively engaged in trying to deny women access to safe, legal abortion.

"I suggest that the American people make a deal with women: So long as you are using the condom, pill or patch I am providing with my money, you are going to promise not to have an abortion if the contraception fails, which it often does.... If they go on to have an abortion, they become ineligible for more taxpayer-bought contraception." - Scott Lloyd, National Catholic Register op-ed, "Bailing Out Abortionists?"



Domestic Policy Council Member Katy Talento

Katy Talento, who is responsible for spearheading health policy for the federal government, believes that contraception causes miscarriages and will "ruin your uterus. She is the point of contact in the White House for dangerous programs that would cut Title X and TPPP, replacing them with natural family planning and "sexual risk avoidance" (i.e. abstinence only). She once said about the birth control pill and other contraception:

"So we'd better ingest a bunch of dangerous, carcinogenic chemicals for a couple decades and break our perfectly functioning fertility until it can no longer menace the earth. I know—even better, let's run for Congress on the promise of putting those dangerous, carcinogenic chemicals in the candy aisle at CVS."

- Katy Talento, Op-ed for The Federalist, ["Ladies, Is Birth Control The Mother of All Medical Malpractice?"](#)



Legal Advisor to HHS Secretary Matthew Bowman

Matthew Bowman advises the agency on its legal strategy. He helped craft Trump's birth control rules and has a long history of anti-women's health advocacy.

"Pro-life organizations should not be forced into betraying the very values they were established to advance ...The government has no right to demand that organizations provide health insurance plan options that explicitly contradict their mission." - Matthew Bowman, Op-Ed for Alliance Defending Freedom, ["March for Life prevails over Obamacare's abortion-pill mandate"](#)



Chief of Staff for Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health Valerie J. Huber

She has dedicated her career to pushing abstinence-only programs.

"I bristle at the terminology 'abstinence only' because our programs are so holistic. They contextualize a whole battery of different topics that surround a young person's decision whether to have sex or not. Rather than someone telling a young person, 'Do this, don't do that,' it's casting a vision for a young person's future."

- Valerie Huber, [Focus on the Family](#)



HHS Office of Civil Rights Director Roger Severino

Roger Severino has a history of opposing anti-discrimination requirements, is in charge of enforcing anti-discrimination prohibitions in health care programs.

"The radical left is using government power to coerce everyone, including children, into pledging allegiance to a radical new gender ideology over and above their right to privacy, safety, and religious freedom." - Roger Severino, The Daily Signal Op-ed, ["DOJ's Lawsuit Against North Carolina is Abuse of Power."](#)



U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley

Nikki Haley is responsible for representing the United States in the UN. She has a long history of anti-reproductive health advocacy.

"Women don't care about contraception, they care about jobs, and the economy, and raising their families, and all those other things." - Nikki Haley, [The View](#)



USAID Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Senior Advisor Bethany Kozma

She has a background in anti-LGBTQ advocacy.

"We aren't asking to 'discriminate' against gender-confused children, but to accommodate them with individual private facilities so that no one's privacy is put at risk." - Bethany Kozma, op-ed for the Daily Signal, ["Trump Has Reversed the Transgender Bathroom Mandate. Here's How Moms Like Me Pushed the Fight."](#)

"Trump is hand-selecting some of the nation's most extreme anti-choice activists and placing them in the precise government positions where they can do the most damage."

- ELLE Magazine, 5/9/17

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