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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 17, 2021

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Attorney General Frosh Supports U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Effort to Undo Trump-Era Healthcare Rule

BALTIMORE, MD— Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today joined a coalition of 23 state attorneys general today in submitting a [comment letter](#) to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) applauding the agency for its Proposed Rule to undo the Trump-Pence Administration's harmful 2019 Title X Rule. The Proposed Rule will rectify many of the harms the 2019 Rule caused women, those who live in rural areas, people of color, and members of the LGBTQ community.

"The HHS is correcting harmful Trump administration healthcare policies leveled at women, people of color, rural residents, and LGBTQ individuals," said Attorney General Frosh. "We support the HHS's efforts to restore certain Title X regulations, particularly those that protect the safety and welfare of our residents."

The Title X program funds not only family planning counseling and access to various contraceptive methods, but also critical screenings for high blood pressure, anemia, diabetes, sexually transmitted diseases, as well as cervical and breast cancer. The 2019 Rule led to a dramatic loss of Title X providers nationwide. Due to this loss of providers, the number of clients served by the program dropped by 60 percent from 2018 to 2020. As a result, low-income, uninsured, and racial and ethnic minorities' access to Title X family planning services has decreased.

HHS's Proposed Rule would put the Title X program back on track to providing underserved communities with quality and accessible medical care. For example, the rule would allow Title X clinics to:

- Share information with patients about their reproductive healthcare choices and available, high quality providers;
- Provide a referral for an abortion, if requested by the patient;
- Provide pregnant patients referrals to prenatal care, if requested by the patient; and,
- Remove the current required physical and financial separation of Title X funded services from abortion care.

In today's letter, the attorneys general support HHS's decision to readopt the original Title X regulations that took effect in 2000 and the proposed revisions that would ensure access to equitable, affordable, client-centered, quality family planning services – including the rule's focus on advancing health equity and reducing barriers to care and health disparities among underserved communities.

Attorney General Frosh joins the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wisconsin in sending the letter.

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2021/051721.pdf>