



July 25, 2018

To Whom it May Concern:

We thank you for your attention to state flexibility in the new proposed rule titled: “Compliance with Statutory Program Integrity Requirements” (HHS-OS-2018-0008), also known as the Protect Life Rule.

We are a coalition of over 225 pro-life women lawmakers in forty-three states and at the federal level. We are devoted to measures that enhance the well-being of women and show respect for the intrinsic value of every human life in our states. We have invited other lawmakers to join us on this letter; our male and female colleagues in state legislatures with whom many of us have gone as far as we can to remove tax dollars from abortion providers and oversee family planning funding in our states.

This proposed rule gives our states the freedom to direct our Title X family planning dollars to entities that match our citizens’ needs and our states’ values. In most of our states, we have gone as far as we can to direct state and federal funding for women’s care services with the tools we have. To that end, we appreciate the proposed rule’s ability to unlock Title X’s massive barrier to state discretion.

We write to encourage you to reinstate this Reagan-era prohibition on Title X funding for abortion centers. Under the Protect Life Rule, abortion centers could not serve as taxpayer-funded family planning centers (“co-location”). In addition, they could not refer for abortion. Similar regulations were upheld by the Supreme Court in 1991 in *Rust v. Sullivan* (500 U.S. 173). This bright line between abortion and family planning better assures that tax dollars won’t prop-up the abortion industry.

The Protect Life Rule would also give our states more flexibility to design a system to help women in need in ways our state deems best and with a wider variety of providers. As elected leaders we have been frustrated with the federal government telling us how to implement family planning programs in older, tired approaches that don’t respect our values.

We also strive to lower the abortion rate in our states. When taxpayers fund the abortion industry they bankroll their entire operation with dire consequences. Research released by the Charlotte Lozier Institute in 2018 shows Planned Parenthood has inflated the U.S. abortion rate,

controlling more than 35% of the abortion industry and resulting in more than three million 'extra' abortions that could have been avoided.

The backlash against the Protect Life Rule is not to be believed; less than 500 of the roughly 4,000 Title X service sites nationwide are Planned Parenthood facilities. This, plus the ability for states to include new approaches to family planning, means the proposed Protect Life Rule will open a new vista of women's care services that include new approaches, new providers and a new sense of empowerment for women. It empowers us as state policy leaders, as well.

We write to encourage you to adopt the Protect Life Rule. Thank you for your consideration.

Representative Terri Collins
Alabama

Senate President Pro Tempore John Kavanagh
Arizona

Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Yee
Arizona

House Majority Leader, Representative John M. Allen
Arizona

Senator Nancy Barto
Arizona

Senator Sylvia Allen
Arizona

Senator Warren Petersen
Arizona

Representative Bob Thorpe
Arizona

Representative Karilyn Brown
Arkansas

Senator Vicki Marble
Colorado

Representative Jennifer Sullivan
Florida

Senator Liz Brown
Indiana

Representative Sandy Salmon
Iowa

Senator Mary Pilcher-Cook
Kansas

Representative Susan Humphries
Kansas

Representative Addia Wuchner
Kentucky

Representative Stacey Guerin
Maine

Delegate Susan Krebs
Maryland

Representative Abigail Whelan
Minnesota

Representative Kathy Lohmer
Minnesota

Representative Jim Knoblach
Minnesota

Representative Glenn Gruenhagen
Minnesota

Representative Cal Bahr
Minnesota

Representative Cindy Pugh
Minnesota

Representative Diane Franklin
Missouri

Representative Rebecca Roeber
Missouri

Representative Jeanine Notter
New Hampshire

Senator Joyce Krawiec
North Carolina

Representative Rena Turner
North Carolina

Senator Janne Myrdal
North Dakota

Representative Karen Rohr
North Dakota

Representative Christina Hagan
Ohio

Senator Peggy Lehner
Ohio

Senator Julie Daniels
Oklahoma

Representative Kathy Rapp
Pennsylvania

Representative Donna Oberlander
Pennsylvania

Representative Judy Ward
Pennsylvania

Representative Debra Moody
Tennessee

Representative Cindy Burkett
Texas

Representative Becky Nutt
Texas

Senator Margaret Dayton
Utah

Representative Karianne Lisenbee
Utah

Senator Amanda Chase
Virginia

Senator Jan Angel
Washington

Representative Luanne VanWerven
Washington

Delegate Kayla Kessinger
West Virginia

Representative Cheri Steinmetz
Wyoming