

Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long
Delaware
Co-Chair

PRESS RELEASE
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Democrat Lieutenant Governors Slam Trump Gag Rule

Lt. Gov. Cyrus Habib
Washington
Co-Chair

On the heels of Trump-Pence administration's [announcement late last](#) week to further politicize the Title X program, strip Title X grants from several qualified Planned Parenthood affiliates and give them to [entities that do not provide contraceptives](#), 12 lieutenant governors came out today and condemned the Trump gag rule on the Title X family planning program.

Lt. Gov. Mike Cooney
Montana
Executive Committee

The lieutenant governors wrote, in a letter to HHS Secretary Alex Azar, "The Title X gag rule undermines women's health and imposes sweeping new restrictions on reproductive healthcare providers.... We strongly urge you not to undermine the important work that our states and administrations of both parties have done for decades to support women and families through Title X."

Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul
New York
Executive Committee

The 12 lieutenant governors join mounting opposition to the Title X gag rule, including [organizations representing more than 4.3 million health care providers](#), the [American Medical Association](#), [American Nurses Association](#), [National Medical Association](#), [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), [American Academy of Family Physicians](#), [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#), [National Association of Community Health Centers](#), the [public health community](#), [governors](#), and [members of Congress](#).

Title X is the nation's only federal program dedicated to birth control, STI testing, cancer screenings, and other essential reproductive health care. It currently provides access to essential health care services for more than 4 million patients. The Title X program has been an important partnership between the federal government and states for more than 40 years, and has been supported by Democrats and Republicans alike.

The lieutenant governors wrote that they are prepared to match words with action.

Already, 23 state Attorneys General [have filed](#) a lawsuit to block the Title X gag rule. Separately, the American Medical Association joined with [Planned Parenthood](#) to sue the Trump administration regarding the harmful Title X gag rule.

The letter was lead by Delaware Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long and signed by the following lieutenant governors:

Lt. Governor Mike Cooney
Montana
Executive Committee Member

Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul
New York
Executive Committee Member

Secretary of State Katie Hobbs
Arizona

Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz
Connecticut

Lt. Governor Josh Green
Hawaii

Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II
Michigan

Governor Peggy Flanagan
Minnesota

Lt. Governor Kate Marshall
Nevada

Lt. Governor Dan McKee
Rhode Island

Lt. Governor David Zuckerman
Vermont

Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes
Wisconsin

The letter can be viewed [HERE](#) and seen below.