

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 28, 2026

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Mr. Secretary,

We write to urge your administration to swiftly propose and finalize the "Compliance with Statutory Program Integrity Requirements" rule, commonly known as the "Protect Life Rule," to restore crucial safeguards to the Title X Family Planning Program. Created by Congress in 1970, Title X of the Public Health Service Act clearly intended to prohibit federal funds from being spent in programs where abortion is a method of family planning.¹ We ask you to correct the misguided actions of the previous administration and reimplement the Protect Life Rule to ensure taxpayer dollars are not used to subsidize the abortion industry.

During President Trump's first administration, the Protect Life Rule successfully fulfilled the spirit and letter of this decades-old law by firmly separating abortion from family planning. The rule appropriately eliminated the egregious abortion referral mandate, which protected the conscience rights of health care providers and increased the potential for diversity among program applicants. Furthermore, it stipulated that Title X projects had to be organized with complete physical and financial separation between a grantee's Title X activities and abortion activities. This much-needed reform ended the practice of "co-location," which had made federal funds vulnerable to misuse and implied that abortion was a method of family planning. The Protect Life Rule also implemented a stronger focus on protecting women and children from being victimized by abuse, rape, incest, and trafficking by bolstering oversight of grantee compliance with state abuse reporting requirements.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration's decision to suspend and revise the Protect Life Rule compromised the integrity of the Title X program. By mandating abortion referrals, the Biden rule effectively required grantees to encourage or promote abortion in order to receive funding, operating exactly opposite to the requirements of the Title X statute. This mandate also directly violated the Weldon Amendment, which makes it illegal for the federal government to discriminate against health care entities that do not refer for abortion. Furthermore, by permitting the "co-location" of abortion clinics and Title X clinics in the same facility, the revised rule provided funding to clinics that perform abortions, allowing them to reallocate financial resources to advance their abortion

¹ 42 U.S. Code § 300a-6

agenda at the taxpayer's expense. The Biden administration even punished the pro-life states of Oklahoma and Tennessee by stripping their lifesaving Title X funding. Even now, Oklahoma is still waiting for the approximately \$9 million Title X funds that were stripped in 2023 and 2024.

History confirms that without the Protect Life Rule, Title X serves as a funding stream for the abortion industry. For example, between 2013 and 2015, Title X funds made up over \$170 million of Planned Parenthood's expenditures.² Restoring these critical reforms is not without precedent; regulations requiring the physical separation of abortion activities and prohibiting abortion referrals were promulgated under President Ronald Reagan in 1988 and upheld by the Supreme Court in 1991.³

It is time to restore the bright line of separation between family planning and abortion that is consistent with the plain text of the statute and Congressional intent. We urge you to move swiftly to issue regulations for the Title X program that will protect federal taxpayer funds from being spent for Title X programs where abortion is a method of family planning.

Sincerely



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



John Thune
United States Senator



Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House

² "Health Care Funding: Federal Obligations to and Expenditures by Selected Organizations Involved in Health-Related Activities, Fiscal Years 2013–2015." Government Accountability Office. March 6, 2018. <https://www.gao.gov/assets/gao-18-204r.pdf>

³ Rust v. Sullivan, 500 U.S. 173 (1991)



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



Steve Scalise
House Majority Leader



Tom Emmer
House Majority Whip



Lisa C. McClain
Republican Conference
Chairwoman



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Sheri Biggs
Member of Congress



Marlin A. Stutzman
Member of Congress



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator
Chairman, Senate Committee
on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress



James Lankford
United States Senator



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Tracey Mann
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
U.S. Senator



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Steve Daines
United States Senator



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



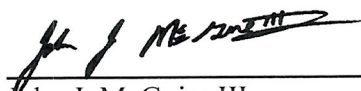
Rick Scott
United States Senator



Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
United States Senator



John J. McGuire III
Member of Congress



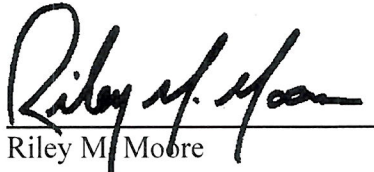
Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



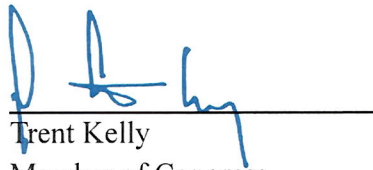
Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress



Mike Rogers
Member of Congress



Riley M. Moore
Member of Congress



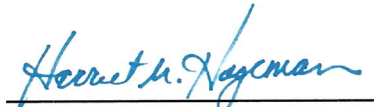
Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster
Member of Congress



Pat Harrigan
Member of Congress



Harriet M. Hageman
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde
Member of Congress



Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



Kat Cammack
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Addison P. McDowell
Member of Congress



Mary E. Miller
Member of Congress



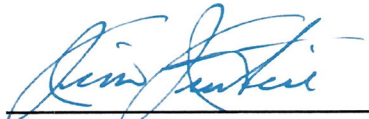
Julie Fedorchak
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



James C. Justice
United States Senator



Derek Schmidt
Member of Congress



Julia Letlow, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Brad Finstad
Member of Congress



Mark B. Messmer
Member of Congress



Stephanie L. Bice
Member of Congress



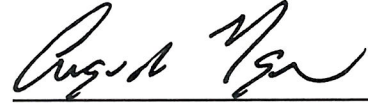
Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



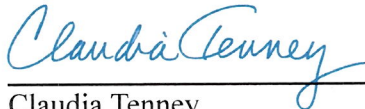
Robert F. Onder, Jr.
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Charles J. "Chuck"
Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



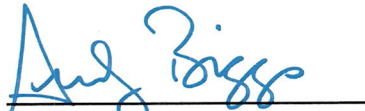
Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Aaron Bean
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



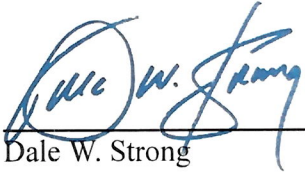
Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



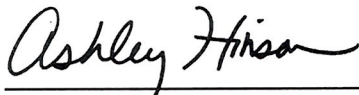
Jimmy Patronis
Member of Congress



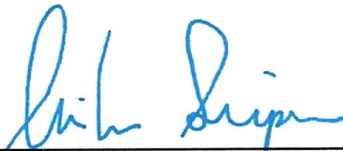
Tom Barrett
Member of Congress



Dale W. Strong
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson
Member of Congress



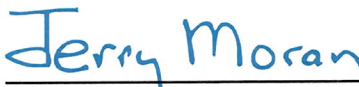
Michael K. Simpson
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



Jeff Crank
Member of Congress



Scott Fitzgerald
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Gary J. Palmer
Member of Congress



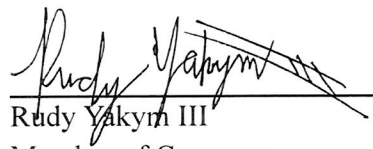
Andy Ogles
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Deb Fischer
United States Senator



Rudy Yakym III
Member of Congress



Alan Stuart Armstrong
United States Senator



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



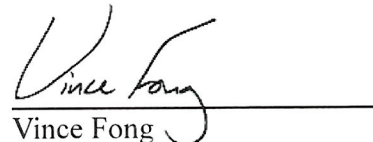
Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



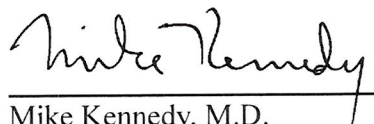
Mark Alford
Member of Congress



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Vince Fong
Member of Congress



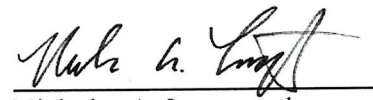
Mike Kennedy, M.D.
Member of Congress



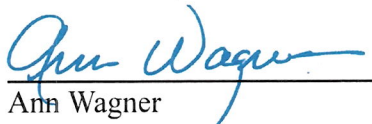
Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress

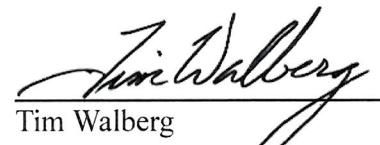


Troy Downing
Member of Congress



Nicholas A. Langworthy
Member of Congress


Ann Wagner
Member of Congress


Tim Walberg
Member of Congress


Randy K. Weber, Sr.
Member of Congress


Elijah Crane
Member of Congress

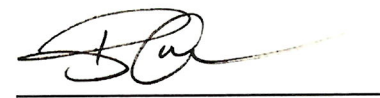

Rich McCormick, MD, MBA
Member of Congress


John Joyce, M.D.
Member of Congress


Mike Haridopolos
Member of Congress


Dan Sullivan
United States Senator


Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress


Burgess Owens
Member of Congress

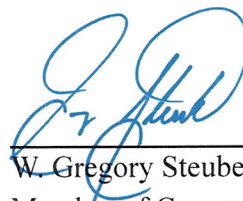

Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress


Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress



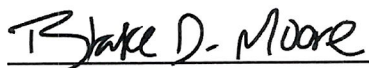
Cory Mills

Member of Congress



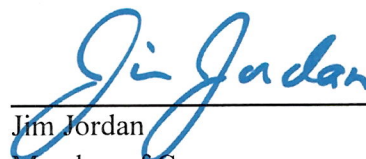
W. Gregory Steube

Member of Congress



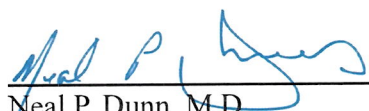
Blake D. Moore

Member of Congress



Jim Jordan

Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.

Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra

Member of Congress



Charles E. Grassley

United States Senator



Keith Self

Member of Congress



Eric Burlison

Member of Congress



Jeff Hurd

Member of Congress



Morgan Luttrell

Member of Congress



Joni K. Ernst

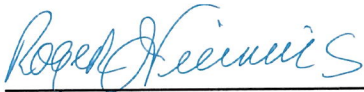
United States Senator



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress



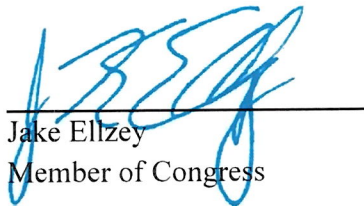
Matt Van Epps
Member of Congress



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Craig A. Goldman
Member of Congress



Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



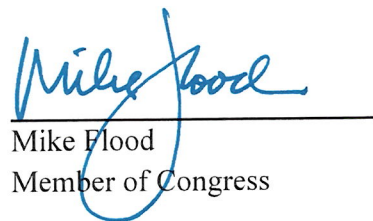
John Hoeven
United States Senator



Troy Balderson
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



Mike Flood
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



John Rose
Member of Congress



Michael A. Rulli
Member of Congress



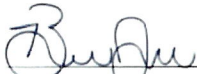
Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Mike Collins
Member of Congress



Eric Schmitt
United States Senator



Brian Jack
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



Katie Britt
United States Senator



Tom Cotton
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



Lindsey Graham
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator



Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Mike Lee
United States Senator



Cynthia Lummis
United States Senator



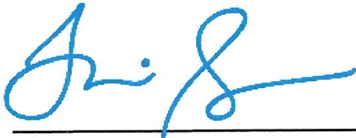
Ashley Moody
United States Senator



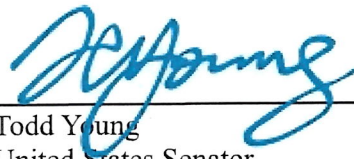
Rand Paul
United States Senator



Mike Rounds
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator