



PRESS RELEASE

Thirty-One Attorneys General Challenge New Title X Restrictions on Women’s Reproductive Health Care

BALTIMORE, MD (March 5, 2019) – Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh today joined a coalition of 31 State Attorneys General in filing a [lawsuit](#) challenging the constitutionality of a new Title X “Gag Rule” that will significantly restrict access to reproductive health services and information for women and families. The lawsuit was filed in the U.S. District Court in Eugene, Oregon and led by Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and New York Attorney General Letitia James.

Planned Parenthood Federation of America and the American Medical Association also today filed a parallel lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in Eugene, Oregon.

The rule relates to funding for Title X, the only federal grant program that funds family planning programs to help patients access contraception, breast and cervical cancer screenings, well-woman exams, screening and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, and other related health services.

“The Trump Administration’s new Title X rules jeopardize the health of and access to family planning services for millions of women across the country,” said Attorney General Frosh. “We are taking legal action to stop this assault on women’s rights to choose.”

The lawsuit filed today alleges that the Title X rule, if implemented, would reduce access and erode the quality of reproductive health care that Title X was originally intended to provide care for low income individuals. The new rule would also interfere with the health care provider and patient relationship by limiting what a doctor can say to a patient.

Under the new rule issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, providers in any clinic that receives Title X funding will be barred from referring a patient for an abortion (even if she requests that information), and in many circumstances even discussing an abortion with a patient. The new rule also mandates a referral for prenatal care for every pregnant patient, regardless of the needs or the wishes of the patient.

In addition to Oregon, New York, and Maryland, the attorneys general of Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin also joined the lawsuit.