

Vermont Health Care Coalition Title X Statement

A diverse coalition of Vermont health care organizations strongly opposes threats to Vermonters' access to essential health care services proposed by the federal Health and Human Services Department.

Organizations participating include: Bi-State Primary Care Association, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont, Office of the Health Care Advocate, MVP Health Care, Planned Parenthood of Northern New England, UVM Medical Center, Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems, Vermont Care Partners: VT Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services, VT Coalition of Clinics for the Uninsured, Vermont Medical Society, Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care (VPQHC), and VNAs of Vermont.

Federal Title X funding helps ensure that every person regardless of income or health care coverage has access to basic, preventative reproductive health care. The Health and Human Services administration officials propose changes to Title X rules in violation of medical ethics. The new rule would do three main things:

- Impose new restrictions that will make it impossible for many patients to get birth control or preventive care from reproductive health care providers like Planned Parenthood;
- Force doctors, nurses, hospitals, and community health centers to choose between funding and the ability to refer their patients for safe, legal abortion;
- Deny patients the right to get full and accurate information about their reproductive health care from their providers.

The American Medical Association (AMA) released [a statement](#) strongly objecting to the rule, the American Nurses Association (ANA) [condemned](#) the rule, and the American College of Physicians (ACP) [asked](#) the Trump administration to withdraw the rule. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM), the American College of Physicians (ACP), the Association for Physician Assistants in Obstetrics and Gynecology (APAOG), the National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH), Nurses for Sexual and Reproductive Health (NSRH), and the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM) released [a joint statement](#) opposing the rule.

The Vermont coalition echoes the concerns and objections voiced in these communications.

If enacted, the proposed changes will result in the loss of Title X federal funding to health centers such as Planned Parenthood for birth control, STD screenings, and other reproductive health services for low-income patients who may lack health insurance coverage. This will significantly restrict access to necessary care for both women and men particularly in rural, hard to serve areas of Vermont.

We call on the federal Health and Human Services Department to withdraw this proposed rule in the interest of public health and for the benefit of low income patients of Vermont.

Coalition Members

Bi-State Primary Care Association

Tess Kuenning | President and CEO
tkuenning@bistatepca.org | 603-228-2830 x112

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Vermont

Sara Teachout | Director, Government, Public, and Media Relations
teachouts@bcbsvt.com | 802-371-3254

MVP Health Care

Susan Gretkowski, J.D. | Senior Government Affairs Strategist
sgretkowski@mvphealthcare.com | 802-264-6532

Office of the Health Care Advocate

Michael Fisher | Chief Health Care Advocate
mfisher@vtlegalaid.org | 802-383-2226

Planned Parenthood Northern New England

Lucy Leriche (she/her/hers) | Vice President of Public Policy Vermont
Lucy.Leriche@ppnne.org | 802-598-4182

The University of Vermont Medical Center

Jason W. Williams | Director of Government and Community Relations and Interim Director of Marketing and Communications
Jason.Williams@uvmhealth.org | 802-847-2912

Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems

Devon Green | Vice President of Government Relations
devon@vahhs.org | 802-272-4191

Vermont Care Partners: VT Council of Developmental and Mental Health Services

Julie Tessler | Executive Director
Julie@vermontcarepartners.org | 802-223-1773 x 401

Vermont Coalition of Clinics for the Uninsured

Steve Maier | Executive Director
VTCoalitionofClinics@gmail.com | 801-448-4280

Vermont Program for Quality in Health Care

Catherine Fulton | Executive Director
catherinef@vpqhc.org | 802-229-2449

Vermont Medical Society

Jessa Barnard, Esq. | Executive Director
jbarnard@vtmd.org | 802-223-7898 x 11

VNAs of Vermont

Jill Mazza Olson, MPA | Executive Director
jill@vnavt.org | 802-249-8491