



December 22, 2010

Dear Colleague:

As many of you working in the reproductive health field know, the Title X family planning program turns 40 this year – definitely a cause for celebration! Over the past four decades, Title X family planning clinics have ensured access to a broad range of family planning and related preventive health services for millions of low-income or uninsured individuals and others. This vital program has been a cornerstone of our public health system since it was signed into law on December 24, 1970.

Clinics supported by Title X are located across the country, serving people from all walks of life and at all stages of their lives. In fact, Title X clinics are located in nearly 75 percent of U.S. counties. This truly allows you to impact the entire nation. Additionally, the comprehensive care, including screening, preventive care, testing and the full gamut of family planning counseling services are important pillars in ensuring all Americans have access to necessary and high-quality care.

Title X is a public health success story. From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to the Institute of Medicine (IOM), family planning has been recognized for its contribution to the nation's health, with the CDC calling family planning one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20th century.

Thank you for your efforts and your continued commitment to ensure that basic, quality reproductive health care is accessible to women and men across the nation. The importance of the work you do every day cannot be overstated. We look forward to many more years of success for Title X!

Sincerely,

Howard K. Koh, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Secretary for Health

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