



ZACH KLEIN
COLUMBUS CITY ATTORNEY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, September 13, 2018
Contact: Meredith Tucker, 614. 965.0203
Email: mctucker@columbus.gov

Columbus City Attorney Leads Nationwide Coalition Challenging Federal Government's Restrictions on Reproductive Health Care Funding

*18 Local Governments Join Columbus' Amicus Brief in Support of Planned Parenthood's
Appeal to Protect Access to Health Care*

COLUMBUS, OH—Today, Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein announced that the City of Columbus has filed another amicus brief, joined by 18 other local governments, in support of Planned Parenthood's appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in a challenge to changes made by U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to the Title X funding requirements.

Title X funding has long been used to expand access to contraception and reproductive health care for low-income, uninsured, and underinsured individuals. Women and men across the country rely on Title X for basic health care, including a broad range of family planning and contraception services, cervical and breast cancer screening and treatment for STIs and testing and links to care for HIV/AIDs; infertility services; screening for high blood pressure, anemia, and diabetes; and referrals for other health services. Here in Columbus, the funding helps provide critical health care needs for over 10,000 residents.

The 17 U.S. cities and one county joining Columbus' amicus brief are Cincinnati, OH; Dayton, OH; Seattle, WA; Austin, TX; St. Paul, MN; Duluth, MN; Albany, NY; Philadelphia, PA; Minneapolis, MN; Baltimore, MD; Tucson, AZ; Providence, RI; San Francisco, CA; Chicago, IL; New York, NY; Los Angeles, CA; Akron, OH; and Dane County, WI.

“We are proud to lead this nationwide coalition to support Planned Parenthood in their effort to continue providing a broad range of critical health care services to our community and so many others,” said Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein. “As local leaders, we know it is our duty to do everything in our power to protect our residents and ensure they have access to quality, affordable care.”

In February, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced new, more restrictive requirements for organizations to meet in order to secure Title X funding. These long-standing, non-partisan funding criteria had not been changed since 1970.

“The proposed changes by the Trump-Pence administration to the Title X Family Planning program would eliminate health care funding to over 10,000 of our city's residents, added Columbus City Auditor Megan Kilgore. “Such action would result in immediate, harmful consequences to the Columbus economy. This is why the

City of Columbus is taking a proactive stance and filing the amicus brief. It's Economics 101 and we're standing up for our citizens."

In the brief, Columbus and their 18 partners expressed the immediate and irreparable harm that cities will face as a result of these changes.

"Title X funds have provided crucial health care services to Columbus residents for decades, and it's confounding that the program is now in jeopardy due to the political motivations of the president's administration," said Columbus City Councilmember Elizabeth Brown. "Thousands of working people count on Title X's cancer screenings, STI treatment, and preventive care to keep them healthy and productive. Cutting Title X funding will do direct harm to Ohio families by threatening their health and financial security."

The brief was prepared by Columbus City Solicitor Lara Baker-Morrish and Sasha Samberg-Champion of Relman, Dane & Colfax PLLC, who is serving as co-counsel alongside the Columbus City Attorney. Relman, Dane & Colfax PLLC is a national civil rights law firm based in Washington, D.C.

"Unfortunately, we have seen time and again that this Administration is in such a hurry to enact harmful policies that it can't be bothered to follow the well-established rules, such as taking public comment and responding to legitimate concerns," Samberg-Champion said. "We are honored to assist Columbus and other municipalities in supporting this important challenge to HHS's unlawful action."

A copy of the brief can be viewed [here](#).

###