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PRESS STATEMENT

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SUPERVISOR WILMA CHAN PROPOSES RESOLUTION URGING ELIMINATION OF NEW TITLE X REGULATIONS

Rule Change Threatens Access To Vital Reproductive Health Services

Oakland, CA – A resolution authored by Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan requests that the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) rescind recently-adopted Title X regulations that could restrict thousands of vulnerable County residents from accessing critical reproductive health services. The resolution is scheduled to go before the full Alameda County Board of Supervisors for approval on Tuesday, March 12th.

For over 40 years, the Title X Family Planning Program has provided essential reproductive health options to residents nationwide. In Alameda County, the Program provides family planning resources and primary care services to more than 30,000 low-income residents, and is responsible for over \$700,000 in federal funding distributed to 19 health care centers throughout the County.

Over the opposition of every major medical association, including the American Medical Association and the American Nurses Association, HHS released a final rule change to Title X funding on February 22, 2019 that enacted several detrimental revisions to the Program, including:

- Restricting patient access to birth control and preventative care from providers
- Prohibiting medical providers from referring patients to safe and legal abortions
- Removing a guarantee that Title X patients receive comprehensive health care options
- Eliminating requirements that all medically-approved contraception be offered
- Inviting participation of providers not offering a full range of family planning services

“Decisions about health services and family planning should be made with patients, and not partisanship, in mind,” said Supervisor Chan. “These changes to our Title X regulations are dangerous to public health and an unconscionable attack on women in Alameda County and throughout the United States.”

The benefits of Title X in California have been substantial since the Program's inception in 1970. It is estimated that \$1.3 billion is saved annually as a result of investments in the services provided at the state's Title X health centers, and that every \$1 invested in publicly-funded family planning services saves taxpayers \$7. The Program has also contributed to a 30-year low in the rates of unintended pregnancy and the lowest teen pregnancy rate in state history, with California's Title X-funded health centers helping to prevent over 200,000 unplanned pregnancies in 2015 alone.

If passed by the Board of Supervisors, the resolution would be transmitted to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Senate Majority Leader, the Department of Health and Human Services, and Alameda County's Congressional Delegation.

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About Supervisor Wilma Chan

Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan represents District 3, which includes the cities of Alameda, San Leandro, parts of Oakland including Chinatown, Jack London, Fruitvale and San Antonio neighborhoods, and the unincorporated community of San Lorenzo. She is currently Chair of the Health Committee, and a member of the County's Personnel, Administrative, and Legislative Committee, the Budget Committee, the Unincorporated Services Committee, and the Ad Hoc Committee on Immigrant Rights. For more on Supervisor Chan's accomplishments and current initiatives, please visit www.acgov.gov/board/district3 or connect on Facebook with "Supervisor Wilma Chan."