



Report on the State of Women's Health Policy 2018:

Trump-Pence Administration and the 115th Congress Outlook and 1st Session Wrap-Up

I. Executive Summary

As Congress kicks off the 2018 legislative session, anti-women's health majorities in the House and Senate and the Trump-Pence administration are signaling they will continue their assault on women's health and rights in new and unprecedented ways.

This underscores the fact that these politicians are not listening, at all, to what voters want and to the larger conversation this country has been having over how to treat women equally, and how to uphold the core values that women and men should have control over their own bodies, their health, and their future.

In an unprecedented year that had women demanding nothing less than full equality and control over their bodies – in the halls of Congress, at work, at school, at home, and in society – as well as powerful men being held accountable for their actions, in addition to heightened public awareness about the fundamental rights of women and men being able to control their future, these politicians still kept trying to impose their beliefs on voters and attack health care and bodily autonomy.

Each time the attacks on individual freedoms and health care intensified, the resistance and call for opposition rose to meet them.

In short, Congress and the Trump-Pence administration should learn the lessons of 2017 and not repeat them in 2018.

But they won't.

By the numbers:

2,700

events and actions held

Over 350,000

calls to Congress

1.5 million

petition signatures delivered to Congress

Over 200,000

new volunteers

More than 90,000

PP defenders signed up online

More than 400,000

actions taken by PP defenders

“Today, and everyday, I stand with Planned Parenthood and everyone who supports women’s access to quality, affordable health care services.”

- Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY)
[Facebook Post, 3/1/17]

Looking Forward

During the second session of the 115th Congress, anti-women's health majorities in the House and Senate and the Trump-Pence administration will continue their assault on women's health and rights.

Five key things to look for in 2018:

1

Attacks on care at Planned Parenthood health centers will mostly shift from Congress to direct actions from the Trump-Pence administration.

With the election of Doug Jones (D-AL) to the Senate, congressional Republicans have lost the votes necessary to "defund" Planned Parenthood in Congress, which would prohibit all Medicaid patients from coming to Planned Parenthood health centers for care.

Unfortunately, the Trump-Pence administration still has a number of mechanisms at its disposal to undermine millions of women's access to care at Planned Parenthood health centers – notably attacks on the Title X program. HHS political leadership is widely expected to take administrative action in the near future to interfere with access to basic preventive health care under Title X, such as birth control, STI/HIV services, and cancer screenings.

2

Efforts to undermine reproductive health access for women worldwide will continue

through attempts to legislatively codify or further expand the [global gag rule](#) and slash funding for international family planning programs.

3

Essential safety net programs like Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security are on the menu in 2018.

At the end of 2017, Congress passed tax legislation that will radically increase the deficit, providing anticipated justification for making significant cuts to social safety net programs. Medicaid provides insurance coverage to [one in five women](#) of reproductive age and more than [16 million women](#) ages 19-64; thus, an attack on the program would undermine women's equitable access to health care.

4

Opponents of abortion will advance abortion bans, despite the small chance of passing any into law.

The Senate may take up the House-passed 20-week abortion ban, and both chambers may consider new abortion restrictions or bills allowing discrimination against abortion providers and limiting their patients' ability to make their own personal medical decisions. With the strong opposition to attacks on women's health care, anti-women's health members of Congress will have an even more difficult time enacting their agenda legislatively next year.

5

So many new volunteers and supporters joined the movement to protect women's health care that in 2018 Planned Parenthood is expanding its existing volunteer programs.

Planned Parenthood organizations are launching new, volunteer-led efforts to bolster and utilize new volunteer leaders to organize local communities, educate their neighbors about the importance of access to Planned Parenthood and women's health care, and fight upcoming attacks on reproductive health and rights for years to come. In 2018, PPFA and Planned Parenthood Action Fund (PPAF) are training and providing resources to 1,000 volunteer leaders to lead 600 volunteer action teams. These teams will organize their communities to protect and expand women's health.

Five Notable Trends in 2017:

1

Congress spent most of 2017 pursuing legislation to “defund” Planned Parenthood and failed due to tremendous grassroots organizing and resistance. Trumpcare, in each of its iterations, was the worst bill for women’s health in a generation and would have blocked millions from accessing birth control, cancer screenings, and other basic health care at Planned Parenthood health centers, eliminated protections for the millions with pre-existing conditions, eliminated the guarantee of maternity coverage, and newborn care, and allowed insurers to discriminate against women.

Due to the monumental opposition to these proposals, led in part by Planned Parenthood’s growing army of 11 million supporters, the various iterations of Trumpcare failed to pass in Congress. The failed efforts by congressional leadership engaged millions of people around the country ahead of the 2018 elections.

2

At a moment of unprecedented progress, the actions of the Trump-Pence administration threaten that progress. The United States is experiencing a 30-year low in the rate of unintended pregnancies; an all-time low in the rate of unintended teen pregnancy; and the lowest rate of abortion since *Roe v. Wade* was decided, as a result of increased access to effective and affordable birth control. Around the world, new HIV diagnoses have declined significantly among adolescent girls and young women in 10 African countries thanks to targeted investments in comprehensive, evidence-based prevention programs. Unfortunately, in order to advance its ideological agenda, the Trump-Pence administration has made policy decisions that will move health care backwards – and is poised to adopt more in 2018.

The Trump-Pence administration has:

- **Issued a rule to eliminate the guarantee of birth control coverage:** The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a rule that allows employers, schools, and other entities to deny employees or students insurance plan coverage of birth control on the unprecedentedly broad basis of religious or moral objection, undermining millions of women’s freedom to decide when to have a family.
- **Expanded the global gag rule:** In its first few days, the Trump-Pence administration took direct aim at vulnerable women and their families around the world by reinstating and, for the first time in history, expanding the already dangerous policy. The expanded global gag rule bars international organizations from using private resources to counsel, refer, provide, or advocate for legal abortion as a condition of receiving any U.S. global health funding.
- **Undermined family planning and basic health care for 4 million people:** The Title X program is the nation’s largest program dedicated to birth control and serves more than four million people each year with birth control, cancer screenings, STD testing and treatment, and well-woman exams. Yet Vice President Mike Pence took direct aim at the program, casting the tie-breaking vote in the Senate to dismantle President Barack Obama’s rule protecting access to basic health care services through Title X. President Donald Trump then signed the bill into law behind closed doors.
- **Quietly cut \$214 million from teen education programs:** The current team at HHS quietly cut \$214 million from evidence-based teen education programs and research. The president also proposed to eliminate the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP), while instead promoting funding for harmful abstinence-only programs.

These actions threaten to undermine the progress we have made in the U.S. and around the world.

3

The Trump-Pence administration has appointed anti-women’s health nominees to key positions who, unchecked, will continue to advance harmful agendas in 2018.

The administration is stacked with officials who do not believe in and oppose the use of birth control; who have regularly touted scientifically and medically inaccurate information; and have made clear they fundamentally oppose women’s health care and care for LGBTQ individuals. These nominees have already made clear that they will pursue an ideological agenda at all costs – like unconstitutionally blocking young immigrant women from accessing safe, legal abortion; encouraging abstinence-only programs; and targeting more than 62 million women’s access to birth control coverage.

4

The Trump-Pence administration dangerously tried to ban language and erase LGBTQ identities in 2017.

In December 2017, in an unprecedented and dangerous move, the Trump-Pence administration prohibited the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from using seven key words and phrases: “vulnerable,” “entitlement,” “diversity,” “transgender,” “fetus,” “evidence-based” and “science-based.” Additionally, in March 2017, HHS began to eliminate questions on [certain surveys](#) related to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Eliminating data collection on LGBTQ people enables the Department’s unequal treatment for health disparities toward this population. These actions paint a stark picture of this administration’s intent to control language as well as combat evidence and science, and illustrate its agenda for the year to come.

5

Anti-women’s health members of Congress lost ground in 2017, but continue to push their extreme agenda.

There was a decrease in the number of anti-women’s health members of Congress in the 115th Congress compared to the prior Congress, and during the course of the year, particularly in the Senate, passage of anti-women’s health legislation became less likely. But extreme members of Congress continued to introduce harmful legislation and dangerous policy riders to various budget and tax bills in 2017.

In fall 2017, the House passed H.R. 36, legislation to make it illegal for a woman to have an abortion at 20 weeks – even if she is experiencing dangerous health complications as a result of her pregnancy – and criminalize doctors for performing the procedure. Anti-women’s health members of Congress continue to push for these bills – and the extreme agenda they are part of – despite the fact that they are not likely to pass the Senate and are deeply unpopular with the public.

“I think defunding Planned Parenthood disrespects every woman in our country, disrespects her judgment to make her own decision about the size and timing of her family, within her family, with herself, her doctor, her God, her family, and so I think that respect, respecting the dignity and worth of every person and their ability to make decisions to answer for their behavior.”

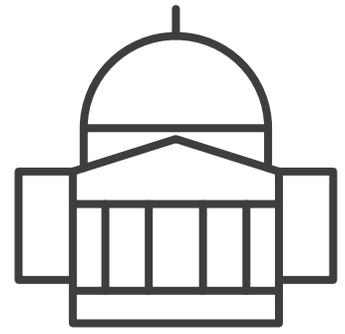
- **House Democratic Leader
Nancy Pelosi (D-CA-12)**

[Press Conference , 6/29/17]

See the full report at:

plannedparenthoodaction.org/StateOfWomensHealth

Congress by the Numbers



14

anti-women's health votes

6

votes to "defund" Planned Parenthood

1

pro-women's health votes

 Pro-Women's Health  Anti-Women's Health

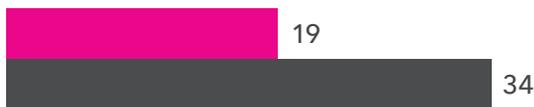
VOTES



FLOOR STATEMENTS



BILLS INTRODUCED



SOCIAL MEDIA MENTIONS



A Comparison of the 114th and 115th Congresses

These positions are based on candidates' congressional records as well as statements made during the election.

As of January 10, 2018

POSITION	HOUSE		SENATE		
	114th	115th*	114th	115th (1st session)	115th (2nd session)
Pro	187	190	47	50	51
Anti	248	242	53	50	49

*Pending outcome of special elections in AZ-08, MI-13, & PA-18

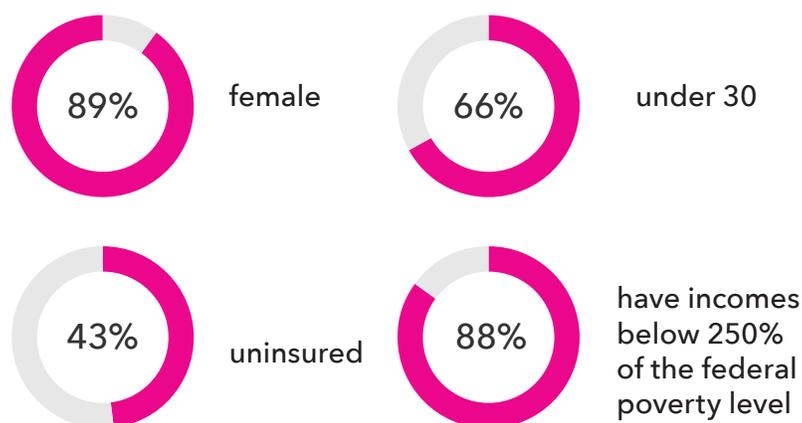
Trump/Pence Administration by the Numbers

People impacted by executive actions

Birth Control 62.4 million women

Title X

4 million people



White	54%
Black or African American	21%
Hispanic or Latino	32%
Asian	3%
Either Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander or American Indian or Alaska Native	1%

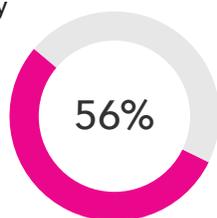
Sources: Fowler, C. I., Gable, J., Wang, J., & Lasater, B. (2017, August). Family Planning Annual Report: 2016 national summary. Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International.

Medicaid

Over 16 million women (ages 19-64)

Approx. 20% of women of reproductive age rely on Medicaid to access no-cost, critical reproductive health care such as birth control, lifesaving cancer screenings, and maternity care.

In 2014, women comprised the majority of the adults.



Medicaid is the largest payer of reproductive health care coverage, paying for nearly half of all births in the United States and 75% of family planning services.

Roughly (67%) of adult women on Medicaid are in their reproductive years (19 to 49).

Due to systemic barriers, women of color disproportionately comprise the Medicaid population.

