

## **Speak Up to Protect Title X: How To Make Sure Your Voice Is Heard During a Town Hall**

*The August Congressional recess is a great opportunity to engage your elected officials about protecting Title X and stopping the Trump-Pence administration's gag rule on the program that is threatening birth control and reproductive health care for millions of patients.*

*The House has already acted to protect Title X — now your senators and Congressional leaders need to hear from you that this is a priority and that their constituents expect this to get done.*

*Planned Parenthood supporters around the country are encouraged to attend town halls to ask their members of Congress where they stand and encourage them to act.*

- Once you find out when and where your representative's town hall will be held (check out the [Town Hall Project](#) to find an event near you or your RCD may have shared some info on townhalls in your community), spread the word! Encourage everyone you can to attend.
- **Ahead of the Town Hall:**
  - Equip yourself with the key facts below on Title X as well as your representative's record on reproductive health topics like Title X, abortion, and contraception.
  - Draft a thoughtful, succinct question for your representative and practice your delivery beforehand. Sample questions could include:
    - Will you commit to protecting Title X and blocking the domestic gag rule in the upcoming spending bill?
    - Would you commit to opposing any bill that doesn't protect Title X and access to Planned Parenthood?
    - If the Title X Protection is not included in the spending bill, how would you explain this to the millions of people who rely on Title X and Planned Parenthood whose health care is in jeopardy?
    - Why do you support making it more difficult for people, including some of your constituents, to obtain birth control, HIV and STD testing, cancer screenings, and other essential health care?
  - Make it personal! This isn't just an abstract issue—talk about how it impacts you, your family, your friends, or your community. Adding a personal introduction or anecdote, such as your experience receiving care at a local Planned Parenthood health center, makes questions even more powerful.



- **At the Town Hall:**
  - Show your support for Planned Parenthood by wearing a pink t-shirt or [accessory](#). Other props could include signs.
  - Record everything! Ask a friend to use their smartphone to record both your question and your representative's response. You can then share your clips on social media, using the hashtag #ProtectX. If your Twitter is public, local and national media could pick up your post.
    - In addition to sharing video clips, you can also tweet what you're hearing candidates say.
    - Tag @PPact on Twitter or Instagram and we can help amplify your clip or tweet to hundreds of thousands of followers.
  - You may see media in attendance (often identifiable by press badges, notepads, or camera crews). Feel free to approach reporters and offer to speak with them about why you attended the town hall/why this particular issue is important to you, what you asked the representative, whether you were satisfied with his/her answer.
- **After the Town Hall:**
  - Continue to share videos, pictures and thoughts on social media, tagging your representative's Twitter or Facebook handles and hashtagging #ProtectX.
    - Retweet #ProtectX tweets from @PPFA and @PPACT.
  - If you didn't have a chance to speak with a reporter at the town hall, you can proactively reach out to them, either via Twitter or email, to share your account of the event.
  - Author an op-ed or a letter to the editor in your local paper on why you attended the town hall/why this particular issue is important to you, what you asked your representative, and whether or not you were satisfied with their answer.