

To: Interested Parties  
From: Geoff Garin  
Re: Colorado Voters' Reactions to Trump Administration's Title X Gag Rule Restrictions  
Date: September 12, 2019

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*On behalf of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund, Hart Research conducted an online survey of 500 likely 2020 voters in Colorado to gauge voters' reactions to the Trump administration's recently imposed changes to the Title X family planning program. Interviewing was conducted August 27 to September 6, 2019.*

## **Background:**

The U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives are currently considering spending bills for the federal government for fiscal year 2020 (FY20). One of the legislative issues is the need to stop the Trump administration rule that would impose additional restrictions on the nation's family planning program, Title X, that has forced Planned Parenthood health centers and other providers out of the program. Legislative language to block this rule is contained in the House FY20 Labor-HHS-Education bill in June, and the Senate is currently negotiating the Senate version of the same bill.

## **Overview:**

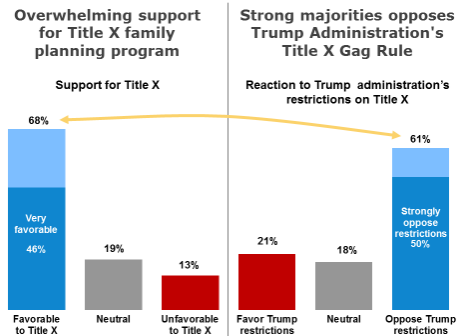
Colorado voters have an overwhelmingly positive view of the Title X family planning program and are strongly opposed to the restrictions recently imposed by the Trump administration, also known as the Title X gag rule. **These findings provide clear evidence that voters want Cory Gardner to oppose the restrictive Title X policies and he will be out of step with his constituents in Colorado for failing to do so.** First, voters in Colorado overwhelmingly express disagreement with the views of senators who support the Trump administration's restrictive Title X policies, and they express agreement with senators who stand up to the Trump administration's restrictive Title X policies. In addition, Colorado voters ascribe a negative array of judgments—including being "out of step" and putting politics above people's needs—about the values and priorities of political leaders who support the Trump administration's restrictions on Title X, which compounds an established negative perception that voters already have of most Republicans on issues that predominantly affect women.

The bottom line is that:

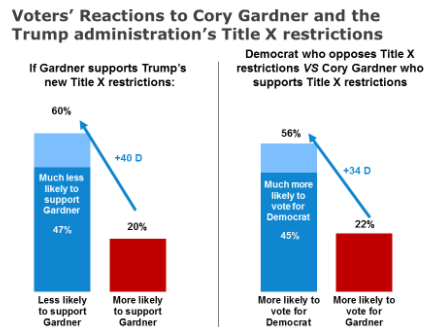
- The Trump administration's newly imposed restrictions to Title X are deeply unpopular, including among key voting audiences such as independents and suburban women.
- Colorado voters clearly desire and prefer that their U.S. senator stand up to these restrictions and oppose them. By a 40-point margin, voters say that if Gardner voted to uphold the Trump administration's Title X restrictions, they would be "less likely to support him in the next election" (60%), rather than "more likely to support him in the next election" (20%).
- Voters make sweeping negative judgments about members of Congress who support the Trump administration's Title X restrictions, going so far as to say they are placing their political agenda ahead of what is best for patients.

## **Key Points:**

1. **By an overwhelming margin, Colorado voters favor the Title X family planning program and a clear majority oppose the Trump administration's newly imposed restrictions.**
  - More than two in three (68%) Colorado voters— including 72% of independents and 75% of suburban women— report having a positive view of Title X as a program that "provides funding for reproductive healthcare for people who have low incomes and can't otherwise afford it."
  - At the same time, voters have a sharply negative reaction to the Trump administration's newly imposed restrictions on Title X; by a decisive 40-point margin, voters say they oppose (61%) rather favor (21%) these changes. Independents oppose these changes by a 52-point margin (65% oppose, 13% favor).



2. Voters express a clear desire for Cory Gardner to oppose the Trump administration’s restrictive Title X policies, and the data show that their perceptions of and support for legislators will be measurably impacted if they support these restrictions.



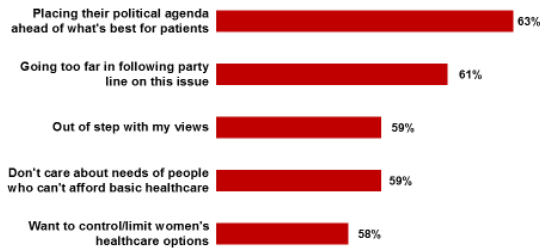
- When asked how this issue might play out in a potential vote in the U.S. Senate, Colorado voters express clear opposition to the Trump administration’s Title X restrictions and a clearly negative reaction to legislators that support these policies. By a 40-point margin, voters say that if Gardner voted to uphold the Trump administration’s Title X restrictions, they would be "less likely to support him in the next election" (60%), rather than "more likely to support him in the next election" (20%). Notably, independents are at a 52-point margin on this measure (64% less likely to support Gardner if he votes to uphold the Trump administration’s restrictions, 12% more likely to support him).
- Constituent opposition to the Title X restrictions is even more apparent when Senator Gardner’s position is presented alongside partisan affiliation. When presented with the choice between a “Democrat who opposes” the Trump administration’s restrictions and “Cory Gardner, the Republican who supports” these policies, the difference is a 34 point margin (56% Democratic candidate, 22% Gardner). For example, critical blocs who decisively favor the generic Democrat when their position on Title X is made a central distinction are independents (+38 Democratic candidate) and suburban women (+46 Democratic candidate). Party affiliation, here, is used to account for voter perception of each party's position on issues that predominantly affect women.

3. Voters make negative judgements about Gardner and other Republicans who support the Trump administration’s Title X gag rule; this extends to their basic values and priorities and builds on an existing concern that they are seen as extreme and out of touch with the everyday needs of Americans.

- By a 30 point margin—65% to 35%—Colorado voters say that the Republican Party is “out of step,” rather than “in step” with their positions and policies on women’s reproductive healthcare. This negative perception is shared by a broad array of critical groups, including independents (-34 points net “out of step”) and women (-37 points net “out of step”).
- With that millstone as a foundation, supporting the Trump administration’s restrictive Title X gag rule adds amplification to this negative dynamic: voters make a series of negative judgments about members of Congress who take this position, including the following characteristics:

### Colorado voters make negative judgments about lawmakers who support the Trump administration's Title X restrictions

*I AGREE with this description of members of Congress who support the Trump administration's new restrictions on Title X funding:*



#### 4. Colorado voters have numerous concerns about the real-world consequences of the Trump administration's new Title X gag rule, including the impact on doctor-patient relationships, low-income women's access to healthcare services, and Planned Parenthood's ability to provide services.

- When told about how the Trump administration's gag rule would affect healthcare services, strong majorities of voters say they have very or fairly major concerns around "preventing doctors and other healthcare providers from giving women all the information they need to make healthcare decisions that are right for them and their situation," "making it harder and more expensive for women with low incomes to get healthcare services," and "shifting federal funding to organizations that do not provide a full or complete range of healthcare services."
- Colorado voters say they are concerned about how the Trump administration's Title X gag rule will affect Planned Parenthood specifically. A strong majority (62%)—including 66% of women, 63% of suburban women, and 55% of independents—say they are opposed to this change, which would "stop women from getting medical screenings and birth control from Planned Parenthood, which is the program's largest provider of these services to low-income women."