

## May 2018 Recess Actions: STOP the Domestic Gag Rule

**BREAKING: The Trump-Pence administration is considering implementing a domestic gag rule -- which would be one of the most large-scale and dangerous attacks we've seen on women's rights and reproductive health care in this country.** This rule would essentially prevent patients from getting care at Planned Parenthood health centers, and "gag" health care providers by taking funds away unless the provider agrees to never talk to patients about, provide any information on, or even mention the word abortion.

**So on May 4th, while Congress is home for Recess, we're telling our Representatives to oppose the domestic gag rule and tell the Trump-Pence Administration to keep their hands off our reproductive health and rights.** Let's make sure we're voicing our opposition to this attack so that our reps know they need to stand with us!

Below is a step-by-step guide on how to hold a flash action at your House district office.

*Have questions? Don't hesitate to reach out to us at [defenders@ppfa.org](mailto:defenders@ppfa.org).*

### HOW TO HOST A RECESS FLASH ACTION TO STOP A DOMESTIC GAG RULE

**First, get ready for your flash action!**

1. [Check the event map to see if an event is already planned near you.](#)
2. If an event is planned near you, RSVP and invite 5 friends to join you!
3. If no event is planned already, here's what to do:
  - a. Find your House member's nearest local office. You can use our [lookup tool here](#) (check out the Contact page for your Representative's district offices).
  - b. [Register an event on the events tool](#) so your friends and Planned Parenthood supporters can find and join your recess action! It's easy: just add in your event date, time, location, and a short description of how you'll take action.
  - c. Recruit your friends and neighbors to join you at the event!
4. Read our Fact Sheet (on page 3 of this toolkit) to get familiar with the issue and what's at stake.
5. Signs are the best way to get your message across in photos and videos, so make a few, and get creative! A few ideas: Stop the Domestic Gag Rule; I Stand With Planned Parenthood; Health Care for All; Our Bodies, Our Choice.
6. [Print out this letter to deliver to your Representative.](#)

**At your flash action: get loud and share!**

- Remember to bring a copy of your Fact Sheet (on page 3 of this toolkit) and [the letter](#), and head to your rep's office.



- When you get there, snap some photos of you and your crew to show the power of our movement and to let our reps know that we are watching.
- Take a video while you're there! Have a friend film video of you outside your rep's office (make sure to hold the phone horizontally). **Check out the talking points below on what to say in your video to get some inspiration.**
- Remember that some offices don't allow photos or videos to be taken inside -- if that's the case, you can take them outside instead.
- Post to social with the hashtag #StandWithPP. We want to help amplify your work, so tag Planned Parenthood Action Fund on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Tumblr](#).
- Don't forget to send us your pics and stories from your action! Email them to [defenders@ppfa.org](mailto:defenders@ppfa.org).

## WHAT TO SAY IN YOUR VIDEO & TELL YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

The Trump-Pence administration wants to implement a domestic gag rule -- an outrageous and dangerous policy that would threaten health care for millions of people.

A domestic gag rule would do two things: 1) "gag" health care providers by taking funds away unless the provider agrees to never talk to patients about, provide any information on, or even mention the word abortion, and 2) impose new rules designed to make it impossible for reproductive health providers like Planned Parenthood to serve patients through the nation's program for affordable birth control.

This has never been in place in this country before -- and would be a radical departure from the way health care has operated in the United States up until now.

This would prevent millions of people from getting birth control and preventive care at Planned Parenthood health centers, and at the same time would force doctors and nurses to lie to their patients across the country.

- Planned Parenthood health centers serve 41 percent of the patients who get care through Title X\*, the program that would be affected -- yet this rule is designed to bar those patients from coming to Planned Parenthood health centers. Preventing those patients from coming to Planned Parenthood health centers would mean many are left with nowhere else to turn.
- This wouldn't just impact Planned Parenthood. The rule "gags" any Title X\* provider from sharing information about or even mentioning the word abortion. It would impact every health care provider in the program, from community health centers to hospitals.
- This will disproportionately hurt women of color. Out of the 4 million family planning clients served by Title X, more than half are women of color: 21 percent of all Title X\* clients identify as Black or African American, and 30 percent identify as Hispanic or Latino.

*\*Note: this is said as "Title Ten," not "Title ex"*

## Fact Sheet: What is a “domestic gag rule”?

- 1. The Trump-Pence administration is considering implementing a domestic gag rule that would do 2 things:**
  - Keep patients from their health care providers by imposing new rules designed to make it impossible for specialized reproductive health providers like Planned Parenthood to serve patients in the program;
  - “Gag” health care providers by taking funds away unless the provider agrees to never talk to patients about, provide any information on, or even mention the word abortion.
- 2. Attacking the basic health care millions of people rely on for is wrong and dangerous.**
  - The nation’s program for affordable birth control and family planning -- Title X -- is there to help ensure that every person -- regardless of where they live, how much money they make, their background, or whether or not they have health insurance -- has access to basic, preventive reproductive health care, such as birth control, cancer screenings, STI testing and treatment, and well-woman exams.
  - This national program serves 4 million people each year -- many of whom would otherwise be unable to access this health care.
- 3. This rule would prevent millions of people from getting birth control and preventive care at Planned Parenthood health centers, and at the same time would force doctors and nurses to lie to their patients across the country. A policy like this would be one of the most large-scale and dangerous attacks we’ve seen on women’s rights and reproductive health care in this country.**
  - Planned Parenthood health centers serve 41 percent of the patients who get care through this program -- yet this rule is designed to bar those patients from coming to Planned Parenthood health centers. Preventing those patients from coming to Planned Parenthood health centers would mean many are left with nowhere else to turn.
  - This wouldn’t just impact Planned Parenthood. The rule “gags” any Title X provider from sharing information about or even mentioning the word abortion. It would impact every health care provider in the program, from community health centers to hospitals.
  - This will disproportionately hurt women of color. Out of the 4 million family planning clients served by Title X, more than half are women of color: 21 percent of all Title X clients identify as Black or African American, and 30 percent identify as Hispanic or Latino.
- 4. A domestic gag rule would be a radical departure from the way health care has operated in the U.S. up until now.**
  - The domestic gag rule has never gone into effect in the United States before.
  - The Reagan administration did try to implement this in 1988, but was held up in courts, and was later retracted by the Clinton administration in 1993 after outcry from the medical community.

*If you are interested in planning an event or have any questions, please email [defenders@ppfa.org](mailto:defenders@ppfa.org) and add your [event to the May 4th events map](#).*