

Title X: The program provides \$1.68 million for family planning in Oregon

Continued from Page 1

zations, community health centers, nursing service organizations and a wide variety of nonprofit agencies, many of which are located in places where little or no other reproductive health care is available.

Locally

In Eugene, Lane County Public Health receives 20 to 30 percent of its funds from Title X, or about \$30-\$45,000.

"If we were to lose all [Title X] funds, it would have a serious impact on how we could serve the community," said Susie Kent, nursing supervisor for Lane County Public Health. "It might mean a loss of services or a loss of staff — with a definite impact on teen-pregnancy prevention," she said.

In 1994, Lane County family planning centers served 1,345 women ages 18 to 24, comprising 45 percent of their clientele.

"Eliminating Title X funding would limit women's access to care," Kent said. "The consequences could range from unplanned and unwanted pregnancies to women being unable to follow-up on health problems."

Oregon

Oregon public health clinics are funded by three sources: Title X, Title V and state general funds. Title X provides \$1.6 million of the state's total funds for clinics.

Odisio said that for every dollar Title X spends on family planning, the government saves \$4.40 in other costs, such as welfare and nutrition.

"In 1994, 62,124 Oregon women received services through Title X funded programs," said Diane Duke, director of development and community relations for Planned Parenthood in Eugene. "The majority of these women were uninsured and depended on this funding to get basic reproductive health care," she

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Nationally

"Until 1985, Title X constituted the single largest source of public funds for family planning," according to the June 1995 edition of *Issues in Brief*, a publication of a nonprofit reproductive health research institute.

"In 1992, Title X still helped to support 76 percent of all family planning agencies, providing more than 20 percent of the budgets for over half of them," the publication said.

Currently, Title X provides \$193 million in federal funds for family planning.

"Publicly funded family planning services have been responsible for preventing large numbers of unintended pregnancies, abortions and births to low-income women, and especially to unmarried women and teens," *Issues in Brief* said.

"Our nation is one step closer to losing its front line of defense in the fight to prevent unplanned pregnancy," said a news release from Planned Parenthood.

The History

Title X of the Public Health Service Act was enacted and signed into law by President Richard Nixon, creating for the first time a comprehensive federal program devoted entirely to the provision of family planning services on a national basis.

Title X is administered by the Department of Health and



Lane County Public Health nurse Phyllis Roberts discusses what types of services are available with a young client.

Human Services, which is responsible for allocating the funds appropriated annually by Congress among the 10 federal health regions. In each region, the health administrator receives applications from, and awards grants on a competitive basis to, public and nonprofit private agencies that provide contraceptive services as well as training, technical assistance and other support.

"By fiscal year 1983, \$340 million in public funds were being spent to provide family planning services to 5 million women at nearly 5,200 separate service sites," *Issues in Brief* said.

"In 1990, 5.3 million family planning clients were served by clinics administered by Title X-

supported agencies," the newsletter said. "Women who received services at Title X-supported clinics in 1990 were predominantly young, poor and had never had a child."

"In 1991, there were a total of 85 primary Title X grantees, ranging from one to four per state," *Issues in Brief* said.

The Opposition

The main organization opposing Title X is the Christian Coalition, because Planned Parenthood receives monies from Title X.

"[Planned Parenthood] has left us no choice but to oppose all of Title X funding," said Mike Russell, director of communications for Christian Coalition in Virginia. "We are at an

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impasse."

The manifesto of the Christian Coalition states, "Christian Coalition calls for an end to federal funding for programs and organizations that promote and perform abortions. An obvious example is Title X ...

"Under the current rules, Title X-funded clinics are actually required to counsel every pregnant woman and girl who walks in the door (about abortion)... In short, taxpayer money is being used to promote abortion essentially as simply an alternative method of birth control."

Current Status

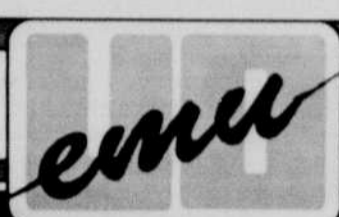
The Rules Committee voted Monday evening to see if it will allow a floor discussion and vote on Title X that would not subject it to potentially damaging amendments.

The full House should vote on the Labor, Health, Human Services and Education appropriations bill on Wednesday.

After the House, the Senate Appropriations Committee, with Sen. Mark Hatfield as chairman, will vote on the bill, then the full Senate. Finally, President Clinton will receive the bill for his approval or veto.

"President Clinton is threatening to veto the bill in its present form," said Penny Dodge, chief of staff for Rep. Peter DeFazio. "There are several provisions restricting abortion access."

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