



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

“America’s Most Livable City”

Office of Mayor William Peduto

July 31, 2018

Mr. Alex Azar
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Attention: Family Planning
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 716G
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Ms. Valerie Huber
Senior Policy Advisor, Assistant Secretary for Health
Attention: Family Planning
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 716G
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Ms. Diane Foley
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of Population Affairs
Attention: Family Planning
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 716G
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

RE: HHS–OS–2018–0008, Proposed Rule for Compliance with Statutory Program Integrity Requirements

Dear Secretary Azar, Senior Advisor Huber, and Deputy Assistant Secretary Foley,

The City of Pittsburgh submits these comments in response to the proposed rule entitled “Compliance with Statutory Program Integrity Requirements” and to denounce to the Department of Health and Human Services’ support of this rule change. As currently proposed, the rule would detrimentally alter the Title X Family Planning Program which has provided vital sexual and reproductive health services to people across the state of Pennsylvania for more than 40 years.

This proposed rule is a blatant attack on reproductive health focused providers like Planned Parenthood that provides both men and women access to safe and quality healthcare. Annually in Pittsburgh and surrounding counties, the Planned Parenthood of Western Pennsylvania serves more than 28,000 people by providing access to affordable reproductive and sexual health care services. Unduly restricting these healthcare providers that serve vulnerable populations is irresponsible and shameful.

Access to quality health care should not be solely determined on your ability to pay. Ensuring that all Pennsylvanians have the power to seek and obtain comprehensive medical treatment, without fear of being denied is imperative to the overall health of our state. Therefore, I urge that Department of Health and Human Services do not make the proposed rule changes and continue to allow reproductive healthcare providers to continue their critical work. Should you have any questions please contact Lindsay Powell (lindsay.powell@pittsburghpa.gov) in my Office.

Sincerely,



William Peduto
Mayor of Pittsburgh