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9th Circuit Court Restores Nationwide Injunction on Gag Rule

In a major day for court decisions, existing Title X rules stand, and clinics continue providing care.

(PRESS RELEASE) - Earlier today, Maine Family Planning's request for an emergency injunction was denied by U.S. District Court Judge Lance Walker. In a sudden turn of fortunate events, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit granted the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association's (NFPRHA) emergency motion for rehearing, filed in response to a three-judge panel's June 20 order to stay the preliminary injunctions blocking enforcement of the final Title X rule.

This ruling means that the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is prevented from enforcing the Title X rule in any way across the country and the current Title X regulations (issued in 2000) are in effect.

"We are relieved that the Gag Rule, which flouts evidence-based practices and interferes in the patient-provider relationship, will not take effect immediately," said **George A. Hill, President and CEO of Maine Family Planning**. "But our fight is not over. We will continue to pursue all legal avenues with partners at the Center for Reproductive Rights, and our staff will continue providing excellent sexual and reproductive health care for Mainers."

The Title X program was created nearly 50 years ago to ensure low-income Americans can afford birth control and other reproductive healthcare. Each year, the Title X program provides approximately 4 million low-income patients nationwide with affordable birth control, STD testing and treatment, cancer screenings and more. In fact, 60% of women get their usual medical care from a Title X-supported healthcare center. In Maine, 23,800 low-income people receive Title X services every year.

For decades, existing regulations have prevented federal funds, including Title X, from being used for abortion services. The Trump Administration's Domestic Gag Rule goes far beyond that, forcing clinics to stop performing abortions altogether, enact prohibitively expensive physical separation requirements or lose their funding for other services, which would put many out of business.

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