United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 4, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
S-221 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
S-230 U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Minority Leader McConnell:

During this economic downturn, many women and families are struggling to make ends meet, and are relying on women's health and family planning centers for access to essential health care services such as breast exams, other cancer and disease screenings, contraception and more.

We write to you today to affirm our strong support for making women's health and family planning services affordable and available, and ask that you stand with us against extreme proposals by some Members of the House to eliminate support for women's health and family planning programs and providers that serve millions of women and families.

We know the Title X family planning program serves nearly five million low-income women and men at more than 4,500 health centers each year. Many of these people rely on Title X funded health care providers as their primary source of health care. Yet, the House-passed Continuing Resolution would eliminate all funding for Title X and leave millions of Americans at risk.

We also oppose the provision in the House-passed Continuing Resolution that cuts Planned Parenthood health centers off from federal funds used to provide cancer screenings, birth control and other preventive health care services to three million Americans every year.

Without access to these services, many of these women will be unable to get preventive screenings, be at far greater risk for diseases such as cancer and will face more unintended pregnancies.

Protecting women's health is a goal we can all agree on. We urge you to stand with us against extreme proposals by some Members of the House that would harm women and their families.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Mikulski

Frank R. Lautenberg

Sherrod Brown

Jon Tester

Mark F. Bennett

Claire McCaskill

Sam Thomas

Robert Menendez

Jeanne Shaheen

Ben Cardin

Max Baucus

Mark Udall

Al Franken

Dianne Feinstein

Amy Klobuchar

Jim Johnson

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