



**WISCONSIN FAMILY ACTION**  
Marriage|Family|Life|Liberty

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**Testimony in favor of Senate Bill 237**  
**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**  
**Public Hearing, September 22, 2015**  
**Julaine Appling**  
*President of Wisconsin Family Action*

Thank you, Chairwoman Vukmir, and members of the committee, for holding a hearing on Senate Bill 237. I am grateful for the opportunity to speak in favor of this bill and to encourage you to vote in favor of this bill in committee and on the floor of the Senate. Wisconsin Family Action believes that this bill sufficiently corrects Wisconsin's current inability to have appropriate oversight of the flow of a very large amount of federal health care dollars in the state.

There is really no good reason the \$3.5 million in Title X funds awarded to Wisconsin in 2015<sup>1</sup> should go to the largest abortion provider in the state, which is a limited service provider that operates under little-to-no state or federal regulation. This bill re-routes Title X funds away from the current sole grantee—Planned Parenthood—and back to the state, whereby the grants can be distributed with priority to the Wisconsin Well-Woman Program and to state, county, and local health departments and health clinics, and then, as the third-tier, to private hospitals or federally qualified health centers that provide comprehensive primary and preventative care.

I would like to point out that according to the Planned Parenthood website there are twenty-two clinics in Wisconsin operated by Planned Parenthood, with the plurality of clinics concentrated in the Metro Milwaukee.<sup>2</sup> Of those twenty-two clinics, three clinics provide abortions services, again, according to their website.

I have included with my testimony a map with the current locations of the eighteen service sites (nine of which are Planned Parenthood clinics) that currently receive the Title X funding, as appropriated by Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin. As you can see in the map, under Planned Parenthood's authority, the spread of Title X funds is not at all statewide. We have seventy-two counties in Wisconsin, most of which are home to women who meet the low-income requirements for Title X services.

The first tier of funding under this bill would go to Wisconsin Well Woman Program recipients. In the second-tier, the funding would be granted to state, county, and local health departments and clinics, where beneficiaries of Title X funds would have access to comprehensive health care, and not just the services covered by Title X. Any additional monies would be awarded to hospitals or federally qualified health centers that, again, provide comprehensive primary and preventative care—this being the third tier of recipients.

Wisconsin Family Action believes this bill would accomplish the intent of the Title X Program, in giving low-income women across Wisconsin access to the full spectrum of family planning services covered by the program<sup>3</sup> and in facilities that can provide further access to comprehensive health care for women. It is for these reasons that I urge you to support Senate Bill 237.

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<sup>1</sup> *Announcement of Anticipated Availability of Funds for Family Planning Services Grants*, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health, Office of Population Affairs, available at: <http://www.hhs.gov/opa/pdfs/opa-fy2015-1.pdf>, accessed on September 1, 2015.

<sup>2</sup> *Health Center Search Results: Wisconsin*, available at: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/health-center/WI/>, accessed on September 1, 2015.

<sup>3</sup> *Title X Family Planning Program Priorities*, available at: <http://www.hhs.gov/opa/title-x-family-planning/title-x-policies/program-priorities/>, accessed on September 1, 2015.