

## Glenda Wiles

---

**From:** Anne Ward [anneward1@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 12, 2013 9:31 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Title X funding

Dear Commissioners,

I would like to ask you to reconsider accepting Title X funds for the clinic in Ravalli County that provides women's and men's health services.

Title X funds were first appropriated for this purpose under the presidency of Richard Nixon. He reasoned that if poor women had more access to birth control (not abortion) and prenatal care, that fewer babies would be born to families who couldn't afford them, and the ones that were born would be more healthy. Both situations are desirable not only on a humanitarian level, but on a fiscal level as well.

The people your actions will cut off include many who DO have jobs, but do not have insurance through those jobs. These are the very people we should support. They are not so poor as to be on Medicaid and Welfare, but not wealthy enough to have health insurance for themselves and their families.

The Title X funds have already been appropriated at the federal level, so accepting this money has no impact on our taxes in Ravalli County. This money costs us nothing and provides services for 400 families who cannot afford help care otherwise.

While I understand that the fear that one of your teen daughters or a teen daughter of someone you know might get a pap smear, STD screening and treatment, or birth control is very frightening to you, I would like to suggest that the family planning, prenatal care, cancer screening, and other services, which do NOT include abortion, provided to these 400 clients has great value to the community as a whole. It is also fiscally sound. I would also ask if you prefer that the teen girl we are discussing had an unplanned pregnancy, an untreated STD or maybe cervical cancer from HPV?

In summary, I ask that you change your minds, Commissioners Stoltz, Burrows and Foss, and accept the Title X funds for the Ravalli County clinic. To do so is fiscally and morally responsible, and represents the best interests of the majority of Ravalli County residents.

I would also like to THANK Commissioners Iman and Chilcote for voting to accept the funds, and representing what I think is the majority of our county.

Respectfully yours,

Anne Ward  
taxpayer, property owner, voter, working woman  
Corvallis, MT