

**Glenda Wiles**

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**From:** Russ Lawrence [russchapter1@hotmail.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, September 13, 2013 11:57 AM  
**To:** Ravalli County Commissioners  
**Subject:** Title X

To: Ravalli County Commissioners  
Re: Title X funding

I understand that the strings attached to Title X funding are onerous to some of you. I remind you, however, that all of the Federal and State money that you accept comes with strings of one sort or another—and that all the money you disburse through the County has strings of some kind attached, as well, to ensure that the money is spent as intended. That there are strings attached is no excuse for turning down Title X money. That program was created by our democratically elected representatives to help people in real need, some of whom no doubt work for you as Ravalli County employees.

Further, if you try to fund a stripped-down version of this program through churches and other charitable donations, you are attaching strings of your own, with the implication that you will then pick and choose who will and who won't receive which public services—which is an equal rights violation, and a violation of Federal statute. It simply can't be done, legally.

Lastly, there is no excess of charitable money in this county. If you are asking churches to fund this or a similar program, what are you suggesting that they NOT fund, in order to make it happen? Food for the poor? Shelter for the poor? What will it be?

Turning down Title X money to fund women's health programs for low-income county residents was a bad decision that has a very real human cost. It should weigh heavily on your conscience, and I sincerely hope you'll reconsider in the very near future. Absent that, we can all look forward to welcoming a Title X-funded Planned Parenthood clinic to our county in the near future, providing all these services and more, thanks to your actions.

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