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SEP 19 2013

Dear Sirs,

Ravalli County Commissioners

I heard about Title X for the first time yesterday, September 18, while I was checking emails at the library. Then yesterday evening, I again saw it mentioned in the newspaper. I am praying that the Ravalli County commissioners will stand by their decision to refuse this funding.

I lived in an abusive marriage for twenty years. My oldest daughter was sexually molested by her father long before she ever became a teenager. I have seen domestic and sexual abuse up very close and personal and I understand the arguments of Family Planning very well.

I am asking the commissioners to stand by their decision to reject this funding because there is much more to Title X than initially meets the eye. It is my understanding that this funding benefits Family Planning and its' current programs which is all well and good enough. It is also my understanding that it gives public health departments across the state the authority to give contraception to, and promote abortion amongst distressed teens, many of whom are pregnant. Title X would also give public agencies the authority to do this without first notifying or consulting the said minor's parents. The arguments for this action are that, in many cases, it is the parent who is guilty of the abuse, and the minor needs to be protected from that parent. This is true. My own feeling on this matter is that if parents are notified, particularly if they are notified in the presence of the said minor, then parents who are guilty of sexually abusing their children will be exposed and brought into the light. This is protecting that child. I believe that more children will be able to get out of incestuous relationships with parental notification than without.

I recently met a man who is a young adult. He was born to a young teenage mother. He is a delightful young man who has his own passions and dreams. He is at a point in his life where he can pursue those dreams. What if he had been an abortion? Furthermore, what if this young man had had to be an abortion? This brings me to my next point. Government support authorizing agencies like Family Planning to give away contraceptives and promote abortion to minors without parental notification is merely a step away from the government mandating that these agencies must do these things with the money that government gives them.

Title X is not so much about helping the downtrodden as we would like to think. What Title X is all about is freedom of choice, or the lack of it. If things develop to the point of the government requiring agencies like Family Planning to give contraceptives to, and promote abortions among young people, then those people no longer have a choice. That choice will already have been made by somebody else.

The Government never gives money away for free. If money comes from the government, it comes with strings attached, and there is always a price to be paid. Think about it.

Sincerely,

Wendy Ervin

Wendy Ervin

September 19, 2013

P.S. I have just talked to one person who insists that Family Planning does not promote abortions. I am not sure that I entirely believe that. However, neither does free birth control get a sexual abuse victim out of an abusers clutches. It keeps them in an abusive relationship, because the potential consequences are conveniently swept under the carpet and everything remains hidden.
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