

the Positive Voice

WOMEN'S HEALTH

Boulder Valley Women's
Health Center

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STANDING FIRM AGAINST THE TITLE X GAG RULE

On March 4, the Trump administration published its sweeping changes to the Title X federal family planning program, established in 1970. These changes, often called the "Gag Rule," insert abortion politics into a program that provides access to contraception and preventive healthcare to millions of low-income adults and teens.

The Gag Rule changes Title X in fundamental ways by attempting to eliminate abortion providers from receiving federal family planning funds, banning Title X providers from referring patients for abortion care, and requiring all pregnant patients be referred for prenatal care, regardless of the patient's wishes.

This move is an attack on personal autonomy, the right to receive accurate and complete medical information without political agenda, and safe, legal abortion care. But this isn't going through without a fight.



Within days of the rule's release, several lawsuits were filed around the country by national advocacy groups, clinics, the American Medical Association, the ACLU, and attorneys general of 21 different states and D.C., including Colorado. Without court action, the rule is set to take effect May 3.

This rule is not about preventing government funds from paying for abortion, which is already prohibited by law. It is only about denying millions of low-income people access to basic, preventive reproductive healthcare in an attempt to further stigmatize abortion. Its aim is forc-

ing clinics to choose between providing safe, legal abortion and affordable contraception. It is using reproductive healthcare, once again, as a political bargaining chip. And it's part of a larger, coordinated effort of federal and state-level restrictions that are dramatically decreasing access to reproductive healthcare.

Women's Health is the only Title X provider in Colorado that also offers abortion care. Our federal funding is at risk—but we will not back down. We will find a way to continue to be here for those who need us most. We're not going anywhere.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR: A LITTLE R&R



Susan Buchanan, RN, JD

Dear Friends of Women's Health,

I love my job, love my staff and love Women's Health. And I love having a Board that understands and supports the importance of time to rest and restore! I will be taking a sabbatical beginning April 1st and will return on August 1st. I look forward to having free time, exploring places, events and experiences that I typically don't allow myself the time to enjoy. I will travel a little, spend time with my family, exercise and eat right (of course), and immerse myself in the community outside of Women's Health. I will enjoy handing over the reins and responsibility for a little while, and look forward to coming back with new and innovative ideas and fresh energy.

I have been privileged to be the leader of our organization for over 17 years. It's been a wild ride, from the lows – threats to our abortion program – to the highs – expansion of youth services for teens and participating in the wildly successful Colorado Family Planning Initiative that resulted in a 50% decrease in teen births! The biggest change came as a result of the Affordable Care Act, which improved access to healthcare for most of the people we serve. I'm proud that we navigated these challenges and changes remarkably well with the guidance of our Board, hard work of our staff, and the support of our community.

The Board has hired Ruth Becker as our interim Executive Director and I have every confidence in her ability to not only hold down the fort, but to offer a new and different perspective. Ruth has been on our Board for the past two years and has worked in and around the human services sector in Boulder County for much of her legal career. Women's Health will be in good hands.

Thanks so much to all the people who have been instrumental in our success over the years. It takes all of us to make sure that we can provide the high-quality healthcare that the people we serve need and deserve.

See you in August!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Susan Buchanan, RN, JD
Executive Director/CEO

WELCOME TO OUR NEW 2019 BOARD MEMBERS!



Susan Connelly

Susan Connelly is the Director of Community Relations for Hieronymus Inc., Director of Hieronymus Foundation, and the former Executive Director of the Colorado Chautauqua Association. This is Susan's second time around on our Board of Directors. Susan

says, "I served on the Board from 2001-2003. The organization and its mission continue to be the organization and mission of my heart and where I desire to focus my energy." She currently serves on the Fund Development & Awareness Committee and Strategic Planning.



Cristina McGarr

Cristina McGarr is an employment law attorney with Savrick, Schumann, Johnson, McGarr, Kaminski, & Shirley, L.L.P. She joined the Board, because, "I am passionate about the work that this organization does in our community and I want to be a bigger part of it." Before joining

the Board this year, Cristina volunteered on the Fund Development & Awareness Committee and tabled for Women's Health at outreach events such as Pridefest. She currently serves on the Quality Assurance and Improvement Committee.



Cynthia Molina

Cynthia Molina is a Practice Facilitator for HealthTeamWorks, which works with medical practices to improve clinical quality and lower costs. Cynthia serves on the Quality Assurance & Improvement and the Fund Development & Awareness Committees. Cynthia says, "Working at Clinica and growing up

in Boulder County, I've always admired the wonder-

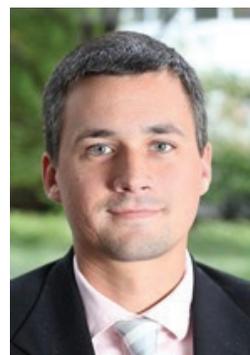
ful work that Boulder Valley Women's Health has done in the community around reproductive health and education and sexual healthcare services and the commitment to promote their mission to individuals regardless of a person's insurance status, immigration or economic status. Personally, I'm interested in being a part of the Board as I feel that my experience in healthcare, my education and my background as a woman of color could bring a new perspective to the Board."



Kat Ruth

Kat Ruth works as Senior Manager, Clinical Affairs, for Medtronic, developing technologies that save and improve lives of millions of patients. Kat sits on the Fund Development & Awareness Committee of the Board. Kat says she was motivated to join the Board because, "I am now

and have always been an advocate of reproductive rights, with the decision-making firmly in the hands of the women affected. Therefore, the non-judgmental vision and mission of this organization resonates with me deeply."



Edward Van Wesep

Ed Van Wesep is an Associate Professor of Finance at the University of Colorado's Leeds School of Business. He serves on the Finance Committee. Ed says he joined the Board because, "Quality healthcare is a right, yet many financial, physical, and psychological barriers limit access to care.

Whether barriers are natural or, in the case of family planning, political, removing them is critical for ensuring the rights of our residents...The services provided by Women's Health are critical for our residents on moral grounds, but also economic grounds, and I hope that my skills as an economist will complement the skills of others on the Board."

Return Service Requested

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boulderwomenshealth.org



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Advocacy



Boulder Valley Women's Health Center staff, supporters, and members of our youth program, SHAPE (Sexual Health Awareness & Peer Education) on the Capitol steps at Reproductive Freedom Lobby Day.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM LOBBY DAY: MAKING OUR VOICES HEARD

On March 7, a Women's Health contingent joined our allies from around the state to lobby our elected officials on legislation impacting the lives of Colorado youth and families.

Our message of support for HB1032, Comprehensive Sexuality Education, and SB188, FAMLI Family Medical Leave Insurance Program was favorably received by our legislators.

Reproductive Freedom Lobby Day was a collaboration of Boulder Valley Women's Health Center, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, NARAL Pro-Choice Colorado, Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity & Reproductive Rights (COLOR), Interfaith Alliance, Soul2Soul Sisters, New Era Colorado, Colorado Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, and the American Association of University Women.