

# *The People's Budget Supports Access to Essential Reproductive Health Care*

*The People's Budget*, released by the Congressional Progressive Caucus as an alternative to the House majority's budget proposal, addresses the needs of women and families in the United States, including their ability to get the reproductive health services they need. In addition to supporting policies to help women and families who are raising children, including expansion of paid parental leave programs, increased funding for child care programs, and guaranteed paid sick days, *The People's Budget* takes a stand in support of women's reproductive health and rights. In contrast to the majority's budget proposal, this alternative is especially supportive of low-income women by omitting the Hyde amendment to ensure health coverage for abortion care and by providing a robust health budget to fully fund Title X family planning services.

## ***The People's Budget Rejects the Hyde Amendment***

Each year, as part of annual funding legislation, Congress passes the Hyde Amendment, a discriminatory policy that restricts the use of federal funds for abortion coverage to cases of life endangerment, rape or incest. This policy of denying coverage for abortion adversely affects millions of women and especially targets low-income women and women of color. This is a pocket-book issue; a woman who seeks an abortion but is denied is three times more likely to fall into poverty than a woman who can get an abortion.

***The People's Budget* deliberately leaves out these politically motivated “discriminatory funding restrictions,” recognizing that a woman struggling to make ends meet needs to be able to make important personal decisions without political interference.** All women should have coverage for a full range of pregnancy-related care, including abortion.

## ***The People's Budget Fully Funds the Title X Family Planning Program***

Title X is the only federal program dedicated to providing family-planning services for millions of low-income people. Title X safety-net health providers are often one of the only sources of access to preventive care, cancer screenings, testing for infectious diseases, contraception, and domestic-violence counseling. Yet this program's funding has been reduced to inadequate levels in recent years, and there continue to be efforts to cut funding further and to withhold funding from qualified providers. Failing to fully fund Title X is detrimental to women's reproductive health and leaves many women without access to any health care at all.

***The People's Budget* increases funding for health programs, providing what's needed to fully fund Title X.** When women are able to access the health care they need and to plan when and whether to have a child, not only do they live healthier lives, but they are better able to contribute to their families and communities, and society as a whole benefits.