

Talking Points for May 29, 2018

Trump's Latest Grab: Women's Health and Reproductive Rights

The ultimate irony is President Trump is pushing an agenda to slash – if not deny – women's access to contraception, essential healthcare and abortion with the full force of the federal government. He has more to power over women's health and reproductive rights than anyone. And he's using it to undermine those rights.

- President Trump, just days after taking office, [reinstated a Reagan-era “global gag rule,”](#) which bans U.S. foreign aid to health providers abroad who even discuss abortion as a family-planning option.
- Last fall, Trump signed new rules allowing any employer to drop birth control coverage for their workers, based on religious or moral objections. About 62.4 million women had benefited from ACA's birth control coverage, the [National Women's Law Center](#) reports. Yet faith-based organizations were already granted exemptions based on religious ground.
- And just last week, Trump proposed barring federally funded family planning facilities from providing **or even referring patients** for safe, legal abortions.
- Federal law has long banned federal money for abortion in the U.S. or abroad.
- The latest measure would force organizations like Planned Parenthood to either stop offering abortion services or lose some of what's called Title X funding for **women's health services like birth control, and screenings for cancer and sexually transmitted diseases.**
- The changes could have real-life effects for the 4 million women who receive birth control and basic preventive services from federally subsidized providers.
- The new rules would deprive women of their access reproductive health care, **leading to more unintended pregnancies and higher mortality rates.**
- The Trump administration built a Department of Health and Human Services that promotes family planning methods that involve ... not having sex. Clinics with conservative views can eliminate any discussion of, say, IUDs – or just restrict the conversation to abstinence.
- **Yes, the same Trump who bragged about grabbing women's groins. And who 19 women have accused of sexual misconduct.**
- *NYT* columnist Maureen Dowd [asked](#) Trump in 2016: “When he was a swinging bachelor in Manhattan, was he ever involved with anyone who had an abortion? His reply: **“Such an interesting question. So what's your next question?”**
- Yes, how ironic that Trump – with his salacious history of womanizing and so many charges of sexual misconduct – is driving policies that curtail women's access to contraception, essential healthcare, and even just discussion of abortion.