

# ASSEMBLY APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

## STATEMENT TO

### **ASSEMBLY, No. 5802**

with committee amendments

# **STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: NOVEMBER 14, 2019

The Assembly Appropriations Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 5802, with committee amendments.

This bill supplements the Fiscal Year 2020 annual appropriations act by making an appropriation of \$9.5 million from the General Fund to the Department of Health (DOH) for Family Planning Services grants.

This bill specifies that these funds are to be allocated, in a manner determined by the Commissioner of Health, to family planning providers: 1) who qualified as participating service providers under the Title X family planning program, authorized by the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. s.300 et seq.), as established in statute and regulations on April 1, 2019, and 2) who subsequently became ineligible for federal funding provided through the Title X program due to the adoption of federal regulations prohibiting the use of Title X funds based on the providers's core mission and not the provider's ability to deliver family planning services. Under the bill, eligible family planning providers pursuant to these provisions are to receive funding amounts as determined by the Commissioner of Health; however, such amounts are not to be greater than the average Title X grant amount received by the family planning provider over the two most recent program grant cycles, plus any non-recurring Title X grant funds.

The New Jersey Family Planning League (NJFPL) is the Title X grantee in New Jersey, which subgrants funds to family planning providers. According to the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association, in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2017, New Jersey Title X providers received a total of \$8.9 million to provide services to 99,844 patients, 90 percent of which were female. Of those patients, 72 percent, or 71,887, were served at Planned Parenthood service sites; 18 percent, or 17,971, were served at Federally Qualified Health Centers; 8 percent, or 7,986, were served at Family Planning Health Centers; and 1 percent, or 998, were served at local health departments. On August 19, 2019, Planned Parenthood announced that its New Jersey affiliates would withdraw from the Title X program rather than comply with the new Title X regulations, and

compromise the organization's core mission of providing women comprehensive information and access to reproductive healthcare.

In recent fiscal years, the DOH has allocated the entire State budget line for family planning services to the NJFPL for distribution throughout the State. The NJFPL, in turn, subgranted the funds to 10 provider agencies that oversee service sites across all 21 counties.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS:

The committee amended the bill to make a technical correction regarding the appropriation's funding and program classification.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This bill is not certified as requiring a fiscal note.

MINORITY STATEMENT  
By Assemblywomen Munoz and DiMaso

Transparency is an integral part of a government that aims to be of the people, by the people, and for the people. Failure to respond to questions of how taxpayer funding is spent is unacceptable, no matter how good the cause. It is our obligation as representatives of people throughout New Jersey that we know or can find how every tax dollar is spent.

Some Planned Parenthood entities may not even be in compliance with the State's own Charitable Registration Investigation Act. If that is the case, they should be ineligible to receive taxpayer funding. Further, acute care hospitals are required by law to disclose all financial information relative to public funds to ensure appropriate use. Transparency is a precedent that must be maintained.

There are eight other organizations that receive money from this appropriation that are in compliance with state law, as are many other health care organizations throughout the state. There is no reason a state branch of a multi-billion-dollar charity cannot disclose how it uses taxpayer dollars.

For these reasons, we hold that the bill must be amended to ensure all organizations are in compliance with state law, and are clear with their intent and use of taxpayer dollars.