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Trust Women Founder & CEO Responds to Trump Administration's New Rule

Julie A. Burkhart calls on a renewed commitment to reproductive rights, lambasts Trump's move as dangerous and discriminatory

Wichita, KS— Trust Women Founder and CEO Julie Burkhart called on a renewed commitment to the fight for equitable health care and reproductive justice after the Trump administration announced earlier today it would bar groups that provide abortions or that refer patients for the procedure from receiving federal funding. Trust Women opens clinics that provide reproductive health care, including abortions, in underserved communities. Trust Women operates clinics in Wichita, KS, Oklahoma City, OK and Seattle, WA.

Ms. Burkhart expressed the gravity of the Trump Administration's new rule, and the dangerous nature of these policy shifts: **"Not only does President Trump's Title X regulation bar access from the constitutionally protected right to choose to terminate a pregnancy, but it also redirects over \$260 million of family planning resources to clinics and programs that do not offer full spectrum reproductive health services. Abortion is an important part of health care,"** Ms. Burkhart emphasized. **"Reproductive health care is a private medical conversation between patient and provider. This new rule takes the privacy out of medical decision making."**

"This new rule is a way to hold the medical community hostage to funding and willfully lie to patients about their options. It is a deplorable move that is going to further increase maternal mortality rates and will hit hardest those communities that already do not have access to adequate health care," Ms. Burkhart said.

"Even if though our clinics do not access Title X funding, patients are put at the extreme disadvantage of not having access to health care options that may be right for them and their families," Ms. Burkhart continued. **"It's pitting the medical community against their oath to do not harm. This policy change is harmful."**

Trust Women clinics do not rely on funding from Title X, but the regulation would bar other clinics—Title X clinics—from referring patients to Trust Women, even if that patient were not seeking abortion care.

"This is a gag rule, plain and simple," Ms. Burkhart stated. **"The Trump administration is putting women's lives on the front lines of a political battle. It's women who will face the horrible consequences of the administration's actions."**

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Trust Women Foundation

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