



the campaign to prevent unplanned pregnancy

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DOMESTIC GAG RULE REDUCES CONTRACEPTIVE ACCESS FOR OVER 60,000 WOMEN LIVING IN COLORADO

(Washington, D.C.) —According to data released by [Power to Decide](#), an estimated [68,550 Colorado women](#) of reproductive age (13-44) in need of publicly funded contraception live in counties impacted by the Title X Family Planning Program “domestic gag rule.” In addition, 3% (2) of Colorado’s 64 counties have lost some of their Title X resources.

The [domestic gag rule](#) prohibits health providers receiving Title X funds from providing comprehensive options counseling to patients, including providing information about abortion services and care. In addition, health centers are required to cease providing abortion care with non-Title X funds at sites that offer Title X supported services, such as contraceptive care, breast and cervical cancer screening and STI testing. The rule requires that abortion services, no matter how they are funded, be performed at a separate physical site, which is impossible for many health centers. In the face of these challenges, family planning providers are doing their best to provide high-quality service to their patients and fill gaps left in the wake of the disruption caused by the rule.

“Over 68,000 women in need in Colorado could be impacted by the domestic gag rule,” said Raegan McDonald-Mosley, MD, MPH, CEO of Power to Decide. “This federal rule is yet another obstacle for [women already facing](#) barriers such as transportation, child care and taking unpaid time off from work in order to access basic health care.”

Data from [Power to Decide](#) shows 300,300 women living at or below 250% of the poverty level in Colorado live in contraceptive deserts, counties in which there is not reasonable access to a health center offering the full range of contraceptive methods. Nationally, more than 19 million U.S. women of low income live in [contraceptive deserts](#).

In this challenging landscape, states like Colorado can take proactive steps to expand access to contraception in various ways. Colorado has already expanded Medicaid to low-income adults, which helps decrease the percentage of uninsured women, and by extension, gives them contraceptive coverage they need to live healthy lives. In addition, Colorado requires insurance to cover an extended supply of prescription contraception and allows pharmacists to prescribe contraception. The state can also guard against additional barriers to access by enacting policies that protect contraceptive coverage. More information about these policies can be found [here](#). In addition, information about Colorado’s telehealth policies relevant to contraceptive access can be found [here](#).

Power to Decide is a private, non-partisan, non-profit organization that works to ensure all people—no matter who they are, where they live or what their economic status might be—have the power to decide if, when and under what circumstances to get pregnant and have a child. Please visit us at www.PowerToDecide.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).