**Sample Op-Ed or Blog and General Tips**

**[Identify personal connection to the primary message: Domestic Gag Rule reduces birth control access in Rhode Island]**

* The implementation of the “domestic gag rule” could impact over 45,000 women in need in Rhode Island.

**[Explain the domestic gag rule]**

* The domestic gag rule requires health providers receiving Title X funds to withhold information from patients about abortion services and care.
* Health centers are required to stop 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 a financial burden most centers cannot meet.

**[Explain Title X]**

* For nearly 50 years, the Title X Family Planning Program has provided federal funding to health centers that provide free or low-cost birth control and related services.

**[Describe impact of domestic gag rule]**

* Data released by Power to Decide estimate that [45,290 Rhode Island women](https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/resource-library/contraceptive-access-rhode-island) of reproductive age (13-44) in need of publicly funded contraception live in a county impacted by the “domestic gag rule.”
* According to the same data, one of Rhode Island’s five counties has lost some of their Title X resources. This is Providence County, the state’s largest county.

**[Describe contraceptive deserts in Rhode Island]**

* Data from Power to Decide show that [64,190 women living](https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/resource-library/contraceptive-access-rhode-island) at or below 250% of the poverty level in Rhode Island live in contraceptive deserts, counties in which there is not reasonable access to a health center offering the full range of contraceptive methods.
* This means women struggling to make ends meet must incur additional costs such as transportation, child care and taking unpaid time from work just to get the type of contraception they need. Around 2,310 live in counties without a single health center that provides the full range of methods.

**[Conclusion- Some ideas below]**

* Women in need in Rhode Island already faced a challenging contraceptive landscape, even before the domestic gag rule went into effect.
* Before the rule, more than 64,000 low-income women in Rhode Island lived in contraceptive deserts.
* The domestic gag rule exacerbates the challenges women face in getting the contraception they need.
* We applaud the good work Rhode Island has done to improve access to contraception and thus help alleviate some of the burdens.
* For the long term, we must all work together to reverse the administration’s harmful domestic gag rule.
* Birth control has widespread support. For one, nearly all women (99%) who have ever had sex with men [have used contraceptives at some point in their lives](https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/resource-library/everyone-loves-birth-control).
* [The majority of adults (76%)](https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/resource-library/survey-says-thxbirthcontrol-november-2019), believe that birth control is a basic part of women’s health care. Further, 86% of adults, support access to all birth control methods, with broad support [regardless of race, region and political affiliation](https://powertodecide.org/what-we-do/information/resource-library/survey-says-thxbirthcontrol-november-2019).
* Access to contraception is more important than ever.
* COVID-19 is putting front and center the need for women to be able to access birth control in a variety of ways.
* COVID-19 is having a significant impact on the health and economic security of people nationwide.
* The pandemic has also changed our approach to health care and highlights the opportunity to deliver access to care in innovative ways.
* We hope these innovative methods to deliver medical care will become established practice across the country and thus make it easier for women to access the birth control they need and deserve.