

May 5, 2020

**ATTORNEY GENERAL RAOUL FILES AMICUS BRIEF SUPPORTING MARYLAND'S CHALLENGE TO
FEDERAL TITLE X RULE**

Chicago — Attorney General Kwame Raoul today joined a coalition of 23 attorneys general in filing an amicus brief in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, supporting the city of Baltimore in its lawsuit against the federal government's Title X rule. The new rule restricts access to critical preventive reproductive health care by prohibiting doctors from providing referrals for abortion or offering complete information to patients about their family planning options.

In the brief, Raoul and the coalition argue that the new rule endangers the health, well-being, and economic security of their residents, leaving patients in entire regions and states nationwide without providers. The coalition urges the court to uphold a lower court ruling halting implementation of the Title X rule.

"Title X funding provides critical health care services to low-income women and families across Illinois," Raoul said. "I am committed to fighting any attempt to strip these services from those who can least afford it, and I will work to ensure those families continue to have access to the health care they need."

The Title X family planning program is instrumental in the states' efforts to deliver preventative and reproductive health care to low-income women and families. Over the last 50 years, Title X has created a strong network of medical providers committed to delivering high-quality, evidence-based, preventive health services. Prior to 2019, the Title X program funded a wide array of critical public health services, including family planning counseling, access to FDA-approved contraceptive methods, pelvic exams, and crucial screenings for high blood pressure, anemia, diabetes, sexually transmitted diseases and infections, and cervical and breast cancer. The federal government's new Title X rule, however, has harmed the Title X program nationwide.

Since the new Title X rule went into effect, the states' Title X programs have been upended, with many qualified providers leaving the program. In 13 states, more than 50 percent of Title X grantees have withdrawn from the program, and several states no longer have any Title X providers. Further, new providers have not filled the gap caused by the withdrawals. As a result, states have faced increased burdens to meet residents' needs for essential healthcare.

Raoul and the coalition also note that in light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, clinic withdrawals from the Title X program place an additional strain on health systems nationwide. Due to COVID-19, many people have lost insurance coverage or are experiencing financial instability due to unemployment and could benefit from Title X's low-cost services.

Joining Raoul in the brief are the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.