

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Board approves \$500K for reproductive health care** *Oakland County to partner with Planned Parenthood to protect patients*

**December 18, 2019, OAKLAND COUNTY, MI.** – The Board of Commissioners has approved the allocation of \$500,000 in order to maintain Title X reproductive health care services in Oakland County through Planned Parenthood. The Board took this action as a result of new rules imposed by the Trump Administration.

Established in 1970, Title X is a federal program that provides family planning and reproductive health care services to low-income individuals, including preventative services, breast and cervical cancer screenings, treatment of STIs, education, counseling and contraception.

“If the President is going to turn his back on women’s health care, Oakland County will not,” said Board Chairman **David T. Woodward** (D-Royal Oak). “With these dollars, thousands will be able to continue to get the reproductive health care they want and need from Planned Parenthood.”

President Donald J. Trump imposed new federal rules earlier this year making Planned Parenthood ineligible to continue receiving federal funds. Planned Parenthood is the only provider of Title X reproductive health care services in Oakland County, and has served nearly 4,300 residents in the last year alone.

“Protecting health care for our residents is a top priority,” said Board Vice Chairwoman **Marcia Gershenson** (D-Bloomfield Township). “This is a proactive step to protect health care services in Oakland County, and I’m looking forward to introducing new initiatives to improve health care for all.”

In addition, the Board reserved funds to increase reproductive health care and women’s health services within the Oakland County Health Division. The Board expects to begin reviewing plans for this new health initiative at the beginning of 2020.

“Continuing Title X reproductive health care services is important to our health department’s accreditation and is essential to the health of those who rely on these services,” said Commissioner **Gwen Markham** (D-Nov). “Politics do not belong in the exam room, and we hope the President will reverse his new rules so that Title X can work successfully as it has for decades.”

The Board approved the funding at its December 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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