



# WI CAN News Digest

July 15 - August 14, 2019

## Wisconsin

### [Wisconsin Republicans Pushing Broader Birth Control Access](#)

Under current state law, only doctors can prescribe hormonal birth control. Pharmacists would be able to prescribe hormonal contraceptive patches and birth control pills for people 18 and older under a Republican proposal (AB 304). The bill is opposed by anti-abortion groups. **8.14.19**

### [Evers and Dems Seek Medicaid Expansion...Again](#)

Gov. Tony Evers and two Democratic state legislators have unveiled plans to seek a stand-alone bill for Wisconsin to take federal funds to expand BadgerCare, the state's version of Medicaid, under the Affordable Care Act. **8.6.19**

### [Planned Parenthood, Essential Health Clinic to Merge](#)

Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin (PPWI) announced a merger with Essential Health Clinics that will go into effect on August 19th. PPWI will acquire three health centers in La Crosse, Blair and Sparta, increasing the number of Planned Parenthood health centers in the state to 24. **8.2.19**

### [Wisconsin's 1849 Abortion Ban Could Come Back in Force](#)

In 1849 Wisconsin passed a law making it a felony to perform an abortion. In 1973, the *Roe vs. Wade* Supreme Court ruling made abortion legal nationwide, but Wisconsin is one of 9 states with a pre-Roe ban still on the books. If *Roe vs. Wade* is repealed, abortion will be immediately banned in the state. **7.24.19**

### [DHS Distributes Title X Funds](#)

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services has begun distributing funding from the Title X federal family planning grant it received earlier this year that used to go to Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin. **7.17.19**

## National

### [Planned Parenthood to Withdraw from Title X, Unless Court Intervenes](#)

Planned Parenthood says it will formally withdraw from the nation's family planning program for low-income people within days, unless a federal court intervenes. In a letter to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, Planned Parenthood officials ask for a stay against new Trump administration rules that forbid organizations receiving Title X funds to provide or refer patients for abortion. If the court does not intervene, Planned Parenthood says it will be forced to pull out on August 19 after decades with the program. **8.14.19**

### [The Pill Club is Donating 5,000 Units of Emergency Contraception](#)

The Pill Club, a birth control and prescription delivery service, has announced it will partner with nonprofit Power to Decide to donate 5,000 units of emergency contraception. The decision was motivated by the recent trend in state-level restrictions on reproductive health services. **8.6.19**

### [Why is the Teen Birth Rate Falling?](#)

The Pew Research Center reports the teen birth rate is 18 birth per 1,000 women, less than half of that of a decade ago. Potential contributing factors are the economy, a decline in sexual activity among women 15-19, an increase in use of effective contraception and an increase in pregnancy prevention information. **8.2.19**

### [Clinics Exiting Family Planning Program May Have to Destroy Contraceptives](#)

Many grantees of the Title X program are considering exiting the program due to a Trump administration rule barring entities that refer for abortion services from receiving funds. Clinics exiting the program will be required to dispose of or return medications and devices purchased at a discount as Title X participants and are barred from donating or recycling goods. This requirement has led to confusion as some grantees are able to keep a portion of contraceptives if eligible for a separate federal program serving low income patients (340B).

**7.26.19**

### [Faith-based Health Clinics Spurn Contraceptives Under Trump Rule](#)

Obria Medical Clinics, a faith-based group that opposes contraception and promotes abstinence, has been named as a Title X grantee. The organization is slated to receive \$1.7 million during this year's grant cycle and \$3.4 million over the next two years. None of the funds will be directed to contraceptives to avoid conflict with the organization's mission but rather to abstinence and natural family planning education. **7.24.19**

### [A New Generation of Companies Selling Birth Control Online for Home Delivery in KY](#)

Nurx, a San Francisco-based startup offering prescription contraceptives and STI testing kits through the use of telemedicine via their website or app, has expanded to Kentucky. The company seeks to expand access to underserved areas of the country. Kentucky is the 26<sup>th</sup> state where Nurx is available. (Note: In [August 2018](#), Wisconsin became the 18th.) **7.23.19**

### [Illinois to Reject Federal Grant Funds to Avoid New 'Gag Rule' on Abortion Referrals](#)

The Governor of Illinois announced the state will reject federal Title X funds so it doesn't have to follow new Trump administration rule barring funds from going to organizations that refer for abortion services. The Illinois Department of Public Health will provide the 28 organizations that were Title X grantees with \$2.4 million to cover the loss in funds. **7.19.19**

### [Shoring Up Reproductive Autonomy: Title X's Foundational Role](#)

The Guttmacher Institute published an analysis of how the Title X family planning program's provision of patient-centered information and services advances individuals' reproductive autonomy. **7.17.19**

### [Trump Administration Begins Enforcing Abortion 'Gag Rule'](#)

The Trump Administration announced that it will move forward with enforcing changes to the Title X family planning program, including what critics deride as an abortion "gag rule," even as it faces ongoing legal challenges from nearly two dozen states and organizations. **7.16.19**

### [Dr. Leana Wen out as Planned Parenthood President](#)

Dr. Leana Wen has stepped down as president of Planned Parenthood, citing philosophical differences between her and the organization's board. Alexis McGill Johnson has been named acting president and CEO.

**7.16.19**