



**NAPAWF disappointed with House vote to defund Title X**  
***Bill would severely limit access to important reproductive health services for women***

March 1, 2011(Washington DC)—The National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF) is extremely disappointed by the February 23, 2011 vote in the House of Representatives to pass the "Pence Amendment" (Amendment 11). This bill, offered by Rep. Mike Pence (R-Ind.) as an amendment to the federal spending bill, would deny any Title X funding to all reproductive health organizations that provide abortions.

The amendment is not just an attack on Planned Parenthood, which has provided high-quality, affordable and necessary medical services to America’s women and families for 90 years, but to any health organization that performs abortions, including hospitals and community clinics that provide HIV prevention services, STI testing, and preventive care for low-income men and women. Approximately 4,600 public and private entities, including non-profit family planning clinics, hospitals and public health departments, receive Title X funds each year.<sup>1</sup> By attacking women’s health, last week’s vote will deny crucial preventive and primary care services, birth control and reproductive care to 3 million Americans.

Preventive and primary care services are crucial to the API community. APIs are significantly less likely than non-Hispanic whites to receive recommended levels of screening, counseling, or care and face additional barriers that reduce accessibility of important health programs and services. As a result, APIs are at increased risk for diseases that are preventable. Studies have found that diabetes is the fourth leading cause of death for API females.<sup>2</sup> Additionally, although cervical cancer rates have fallen for all major racial groups, rates for API women continue to rise, with Vietnamese American women seeing cervical cancer rates that are five times higher than that of non-Hispanic white women.<sup>3</sup> While many factors contribute to the high rates of preventable diseases among these individuals, including lack of culturally and linguistically appropriate services, the lack of affordable preventive and primary care services for the API community push available services out of reach.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Public Health and Science, Office of Population Affairs, Office of Family Planning. <http://opa.osophs.dhhs.gov/titlex/ofp.html>

<sup>2</sup> National Center for Health Statistics, 1999

<sup>3</sup> National Asian Women’s Health Organization (NAWHO), *Learning from Communities: A Guide to Addressing the Reproductive Health Needs of Vietnamese American Women* (1998).

The vote last week reflects the pursuit of an extreme political agenda by the House leadership. NAPAWF will continue to advocate against such extreme legislation.