

abortion under the Affordable Care Act, and extending the global gag order to the United States in a “domestic gag order.”

In 2017, Trump cut off funding for the United Nations Population Fund, a planet-wide provider of family planning and contraception to women. The New York Times reported then that health advocacy said the Fund’s U.S. funding in 2016 had “prevented an estimated 320,000 pregnancies and averted 100,000 unsafe abortions, while ensuring 800,000 people had access to contraception.” As a further result of that cutoff, women around the world were prevented from using a powerful new HIV drug, dolutegravir, although men’s access to it is unrestricted.

In May 2018, as part of extending the gag rule to domestic purposes, Trump circulated a proposed “domestic gag rule” draft around Title X, the U.S. affordable birth control program, in an effort to cut off millions of dollars to Planned Parenthood health centers. It would block health care providers receiving Title X funding from discussing abortion or referring patients for the procedure.

Jacky Rosen of Nevada, then campaigning for the U.S. Senate, said in a prepared statement, “The Trump Administration’s dangerous new rule is a blatant effort to defund Planned Parenthood. ... This domestic gag rule threatens to leave

thousands of Nevadans who count on Planned Parenthood health centers without access to care.”

Rosen, now senator from Nevada, has signed onto H.R. 671, which seeks to reverse the global gag rule and opposes Trump’s domestic version.

Her Nevada colleague in the Senate, Catherine Cortez Masto, also attacked the Title X changes that she said “make it significantly harder for women across the country to get the health care they need.” Both are expected to oppose any domestic extension of the gag rule that would interfere with doctor/patient relationship in the United States. That Title X rule was made final last week, on Feb. 22, further inflaming the abortion issue.

A number of state attorneys general have headed to court to try to stop Trump’s efforts.

New Nevada Attorney General Aaron Ford—who used the abortion issue against his Republican opponent in last year’s election—has joined a coalition of state AGs in filing *amicus* briefs asking the courts to stop Trump administration actions lifting ACA contraception coverage. The briefs were filed in Pennsylvania and California cases.

On Feb. 26, Sisolak joined a letter by U.S. governors condemning any “domestic gag rule.” □

**Abortion  
is at issue at  
both state and  
federal levels.**

## Washoe zephyrs



Across the West on Feb. 25–26, strong winds kept planes on the ground, uprooted trees, pulled down fences, closed roads and schools and caused power outages. This tree went down at Woodside in Sparks.

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