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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 29, 2018

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**County of Santa Clara Leads Coalition to Fight the Trump Administration’s
Efforts to Deny Women Access to Contraception**

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF.—Today, the County of Santa Clara led a nationwide coalition to fight the Trump Administration’s efforts to roll back women’s access to cost-free contraception. Together with the City of Oakland and 15 other cities, counties, and local agencies across the nation, the County filed an amicus brief urging the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to uphold a preliminary injunction that blocks new rules that would undermine the Affordable Care Act’s guarantee of cost-free insurance coverage for birth control.

“Santa Clara County has a long history of supporting access to contraception,” said Joe Simitian, President of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. “We support contraception access as a matter of policy, through the health plans we provide our employees, and through the medical services we provide and contract for. We’re not prepared to simply stand by while the federal government strips away health care and family planning protections our residents rely on.”

“We believe in women to make the best decisions for themselves and their families,” said Supervisor Cindy Chavez, who represents Central, East, and South San Jose. “So we will keep fighting for our healthcare choices and making sure services are available.”

“Yet again, the Trump Administration has shown its complete disregard for the law and the rights of women,” said Santa Clara County Counsel James R. Williams. “These radical new rules were pushed through without following federal law, and they are flatly contrary to both the Affordable Care Act and bedrock principles of separation of church and state.”

The sweeping new rules issued by the Trump Administration would dramatically expand exemptions to Affordable Care Act's birth control coverage requirement for employers who claim to have moral or religious objections to contraception. If the rules are allowed to take effect, many women will lose insurance coverage for birth control, increasing costs for local governments like the County of Santa Clara that provide no- and low-cost contraceptive services and medical care associated with unintended pregnancies.

The Trump Administration issued the new rules in October 2017 and made them effective immediately, without providing any opportunity for input from the public. The States of California, Delaware, Maryland, New York, and Virginia sued over the rules and obtained a preliminary injunction halting their implementation. The amicus brief authored by the County of Santa Clara and City of Oakland urges the Ninth Circuit to affirm that injunction and argues that the rules would cause substantial harm to local governments that provide safety-net services related to family planning and unintended pregnancies.

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About the Santa Clara County Counsel's Office

The County Counsel serves as legal counsel to the County, its Board of Supervisors and elected officials, every County department and agency, and the County's boards and commissions. With a staff of 170 employees, including 85 attorneys, the Office of the County Counsel is also responsible for all civil litigation involving the County and its officers. Through its Social Justice and Impact Litigation Section, the Office litigates high-impact cases, drafts innovative local ordinances, and develops policies and programs to advance social and economic justice.

About the County of Santa Clara, California

The County of Santa Clara government serves a diverse, multi-cultural population of 1.9 million residents in Santa Clara County, the fifth largest county in California. With a \$6.5 billion budget, more than 70 agencies/departments and 20,000 employees, the County of Santa Clara plans for the needs of a dynamic community, offers quality services, and promotes a healthy, safe and prosperous community for all. The County provides essential services including public health and environmental protection, medical services through Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC), child and adult protection services, homelessness prevention and solutions, roads, parks, libraries, emergency response to disasters, protection of minority communities and those under threat, access to a fair criminal justice system, and scores of other services, particularly for those members of our community in the greatest need.