

March 31, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker of the House of
Representatives
United States Capitol, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Office of the Republican Leader of the
House of Representatives
United States Capitol, H-204
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Office of the Senate Majority Leader
United States Capitol, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Office of the Republican Leader of the
Senate
United States Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy, Leader Schumer, and Leader McConnell:

As local, state, and national organizations dedicated to the health and success of youth in this country, we urge Congress to increase funding for the Office of Population Affairs' (OPA) Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program to \$150 million and dedicate at least \$900,000 within the Public Health Services (PHS) funding for "Evaluation of Teen Pregnancy Prevention Approaches" to reactivate the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review. Since 2010, the TPP Program, along with the Administration on Children and Families' Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) (authorized at \$75 million annually through FY 2023) have been recognized as pioneering examples of tiered, evidence-based policymaking that represent important contributions to building a body of evidence of what works. These complimentary programs have traditionally included high-quality implementation, evaluation, innovation, and learning from results. The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review, an independent, systematic, rigorous review of evaluation studies informed TPP and PREP grantmaking and provided a clearinghouse of evidence-based programs for other federal, state, and community initiatives—until funding for it ceased under the previous Administration. As Congress works on funding for FY 2022, it is essential to increase funding for the TPP Program and specifically allocate funding for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review. It is also vital that Congress ensure the TPP Program and PREP adhere to rigorous standards of evidence, and avoid biased or incomplete information.

The teen pregnancy and teen birth rates have declined by an impressive 63 percent and 72 percent respectively since the early 1990s. There have been declines across all racial and ethnic groups, and in all 50 states. Yet disparities persist by race, ethnicity, age, and geography. The TPP Program (along with PREP) address these disparities by focusing funds on young people and communities with the greatest needs. However, current funding levels leave many young people and communities without critical sexual health information and education. Increased funding for the TPP Program would ensure more young people receive the information they need. And dedicated funding for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review would help reactivate a tool that is critical to the integrity of evidence-based programs such as the TPP Program and PREP and serves as a resource to communities across the country.

Despite the progress that has been made, the United States has the highest rate of teen pregnancies among western countries—nearly 450,000 pregnancies to teens each year, making it harder for many young people to achieve their goals for their education, career, and family.

The public recognizes the value of evidence-based programs. In fact, [polling](#) indicates that 85% of adults (75% of Republicans and 89% of Democrats) favor maintaining federal funding for the TPP Program and PREP. In addition, the TPP Program, PREP, and other funding streams that help meet the needs of all people can contribute to the decline in the teen birth rate. A [study](#) by Power to Decide found that in 2015 alone, the United States realized \$4.4 billion dollars in savings due to the decline in the teen birth rate between 1991 and 2015.

The TPP Program and PREP represent a modest but strategic investment by the federal government to help ensure young people have the information they need to be healthy and achieve their goals. These programs also contribute to progress on a host of other critical issues that are important to Americans: increasing high school and college completion, strengthening the workforce, and improving maternal and infant health. We hope that you will stand with the many groups below to increase funding for the TPP Program, dedicate funding within the PHS teen pregnancy prevention evaluation line for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Evidence Review, and protect the integrity of the TPP Program and PREP. Doing so will help to improve the lives of young people and future generations.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Advocates for Youth
Afterschool Alliance
Altarum Institute, Center for Prevention
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of University Women
(AAUW)
American College of Obstetricians and
Gynecologists
American Public Human Services Association
American School Health Association
American Sexual Health Association
AMTC & Associates
Association of Maternal and Child Health
Programs
Catholics for Choice
Center for Reproductive Rights
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Advocacy Institute
Cicatelli Associates Incorporated
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Coalition of National Health Education
Organizations
The Dibble Institute

The Emily Program
EFFICACITY, LLC.
Esperanza
Eta Sigma Gamma
ETR Associates
Fathers & Families Coalition of America
Feminist Majority
First Focus
Forum for Youth Investment
Futures Without Violence
Girls Inc.
Healthy Teen Network
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health
March of Dimes
Medicines360
The National Alliance to Advance
Adolescent Health
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of County and City
Health Officials (NACCHO)
National Association of County Human
Services Administrators
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.

National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses
National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD)
National Council of Jewish Women
The National Crittenton Foundation
National Family Planning & Reproductive
Health Association
National Foster Care Coalition
National Hispanic Christian Leadership
Conference
National Indian Education Association
National Institute for Reproductive Health
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Network of STD Clinical Prevention
Training Centers
National Network for Youth
National Organization for Women
National Women's Law Center
The New Evangelical Partnership for the
Common Good
North American Society for Pediatric and
Adolescent Gynecology (NASPAG)
Nurse-Family Partnership National Service
Office
Opportunity Nation
The Partnership for Male Youth
People For the American Way
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
The Policy and Research Group
Population Connection Action Fund
Power to Decide
Progressive Policy Institute
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Religious Institute
Results for America
The Rural School and Community Trust
The Society for Adolescent Health and
Medicine
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change
Society for Public Health Education
Sojourners
Third Way
UnidosUS
Union for Reform Judaism
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender
Equity

Wyman Center
YWCA USA

State and Local Organizations

AZ

Child & Family Resources INC
Concilio Latino de Salud, Inc. (Phoenix)
South Mountain WORKS Coalition (Phoenix)
Southwest Behavioral Health Services

CA

Adolescent Medicine, Pediatrics, Keck
School of Medicine, University of
Southern California (Los Angeles)
AltaMed Health Services Corp. (Los Angeles)
California Association of School Health
Educators
Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Division of
Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine
Community Action Partnership of San Luis
Obispo County, Inc.
East Valley Community Health Center
(Pomona and West Covina)
Family Service Agency of San Francisco
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
Mental Health Systems Inc. (Escondido)
Mental Health Systems Inc. (San Diego)
Mount Toro High School Salinas Union
High School District Teen Parent
Program Cal-SAFE (Salinas)
North County Lifeline, Inc. (Oceanside)
Petaluma Health Center
Public Counsel Law Center – Children's
Rights Project (Los Angeles)
San Diego Youth Services
SAY San Diego
STEPP Program (Truckee)
Teen Success, Inc.
Valley Community Clinic (North Hollywood)
United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley

CO

Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains

CT

Greater New Britain Teen Pregnancy
Prevention, Inc.'s Pathways/Senderos Center

DC

DC Sociological Society

FL

Healthy Teens Coalition of Manatee County
Investing In Our Youth, Inc. (Quincy)
OIC of South Florida
Philemon Ministries (Apopka)
Planned Parenthood of South, East and
North Florida (Miami)
Trinity Church (Miami)

GA

Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power &
Potential
MAYFC – Metro Atlanta Youth for Christ
(Norcross)
Morehouse School of Medicine (Atlanta)
Phoebe Putney Health System (Albany)
Phoebe Putney Network of Trust School Health
Program (Albany)

HI

Hale `Opio Kaua'i, Inc. (Lihu'e)
Hawaii Youth Services Network

IL

Chicago Department of Public Health
Lee County Health Department
Rockford MELD (Rockford)

IN

A Positive Approach to Teen Health - PATH,
Inc. (Valparaiso)
Centerstone of Tennessee (serving TN, KY, IN)
Health Care Education and Training (serving IN
and WI)

KS

Future Leaders Outreach Network (Wyandotte
County)

KY

Centerstone of Tennessee (serving TN, KY, IN)
Community Connections Resource Center
(Louisville)

LA

Lift Louisiana
The Policy & Research Group

National Organization for Women - Shreveport/
Bossier Chapter

MA

Roca, Inc.

MD

Crittenton Services of Greater Washington
Lauren L. Tingey, PhD
Associate Director, John Hopkins Center for
American Indian Health

MI

Jackson County Health Department
Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual
Health (MOASH)
YMCA of Metro Detroit
Antonia M. Villarruel, PhD, FAAN
Associate Dean for Research & Global Affairs,
Professor and Nola J. Pender Collegiate Chair,
University of Michigan School of Nursing

ME

New Beginnings Inc. (Lewiston)
Wayfinder Schools (New Gloucester)

MO

Better Family Life, INC (St. Louis)
Future Leaders Outreach Network (Kansas City)
The Teen Pregnancy & Prevention Partnership

MN

Family Tree Clinic (St. Paul)

MS

My Brother's Keeper
Teen Health Mississippi
Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Marks)

NC

Cabarrus Partnership for Children (Concord)
Gang Free Inc. (Henderson)
M-T-W District Health Dept. (Williamston)
SHIFT NC

NE

The Women's Fund of Omaha

NJ

Center for Supportive Schools (CSS)

NV

Southern Nevada Health District

NY

Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network

Children's Aid

NYU Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health (New York)

Metro Council for Teen Potential (Rochester)

New York State Council on Adolescent Pregnancy (NYSCAP)

OH

All About Me Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (Cincinnati)

OK

Amplify: Youth Health Collective (Tulsa)

Choctaw Na`tion SMART Program

Kirkpatrick Policy Group (Oklahoma City)

Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy

Take Control Initiative (Tulsa County)

Teen emPower! Inc. (Oklahoma City)

Thrive: A Sexual Health Collective for Youth

PA

Philadelphia Department of Public Health

John B. Jemmott III, Ph.D.

Professor, School of Medicine and Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania

Loretta S. Jemmott, R.N., Ph.D

Professor, School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

RI

The Rhode Island Alliance

YWCA Rhode Island

SC

Coastal Carolina OBGYN (Conway)

Child Abuse Prevention Association/CAPA (Beaufort)

FactForward

TN

A Step Ahead Chattanooga

A Step Ahead Foundation

A Step Foundation East Tennessee

A Step Ahead Foundation of Middle Tennessee

A Step Ahead Foundation of West Tennessee Centerstone of Tennessee (serving TN, KY, IN)

Le Bonheur Community Health and Well-Being (Memphis)

Monroe Harding (Nashville)

Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga

TX

Ambassadors For Christ Youth Ministries (Houston)

American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, District XI

Baylor Teen Health Clinic (Houston)

City of San Antonio

Communities of Color United: Coalition for Racial Justice (Austin)

Future Leaders Outreach Network (DFW Metro)

Healthy Futures of Texas

Henderson County HELP Center

Image Means Everything (Houston)

LifeWorks (Austin)

Ntarupt (North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen Pregnancy)

Project Vida Health Center

Rio Grande Valley Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition

Texas Association of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

The Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

UT

Centro Hispano (Provo)

David N. Sundwall M.D.

Professor of Public Health, University of Utah School of Medicine – Division of Public Health

VA

Department of Global and Community Health, George Mason University (Fairfax)

Office on Children & Youth, James Madison University (Harrisonburg)

Parenting Cooperative Program (Culpeper)

VT

Youth Catalytics (Charlotte)

WA

Public Health - Seattle & King County

WI

City of Milwaukee Health Department
Community Advocates Public Policy Institute
Health Care Education and Training (serving IN
and WI)

Independence*First* (Milwaukee)

Pathfinders Milwaukee, Inc.

WV

Brian's Safehouse (Month Hope)

CASEWV/PROJECT YES (Bluefield)

Eastern Greenbrier Middle School (Ronceverte)

Greenbrier East High School (Lewisburg)

Mission West Virginia

Sparrows Nest (Beckley)