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  
STEP 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

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)
NY
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 Nation 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)
IndependenceFirst (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)