

April 20, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan  
Office of the Speaker of the House of  
Representatives  
United States Capitol, H-232  
Washington, DC 20515

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

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

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Office of the Democratic Leader of the  
Senate  
Hart Senate Office Building, 419  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representatives Ryan and Pelosi, and Senators McConnell and Schumer:

As local, state, and national organizations dedicated to the health and success of youth in this country, we urge Congress to continue funding for the Office of Adolescent Health's (OAH) Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program and the Administration for Children and Families' Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP). The TPP Program and PREP have been recognized as pioneering examples of tiered, evidence-based policymaking, and represent an important contribution to building a body of evidence of what works. They include high quality implementation, evaluation, innovation, and learning from results. Since the first round of the TPP Program and PREP grants were awarded in 2010, the teen birth rate in the U.S. has [declined 35 percent](#), about twice as much as the decline in any other five-year period. While no one program could be solely responsible for this decline, it is undeniable that over the past six years these programs have played a leading role in a growing national, state, and local commitment to using proven approaches to reduce teen pregnancy. As Congress works on funding for the remainder of FY 2017 and FY 2018, it is essential to preserve the funding and maintain the existing commitment to evidence in these programs.

The teen pregnancy and teen birth rate have declined by an impressive 55 percent and 64 percent respectively since the early 1990s. There have been declines across all racial and ethnic groups, and in all 50 states. Yet it is still the case that roughly one in four girls in this country will become pregnant before the age of 20, and there are disparities by race/ethnicity, age, and geography. In addition, youth in foster care have rates twice as high as youth not in care. The TPP Program and PREP address these disparities by targeting funds to youth and communities with the greatest needs.

Despite the progress that has been made, the United States has the highest rate of teen pregnancies in the developed world—more than 550,000 pregnancies to teens each year. At a time when the U.S. needs to become more competitive in the global economy, our teen pregnancy rates are still much higher than our

trading partners and competitors, putting us at a disadvantage. Only half of teen mothers obtain a high school diploma by age 22, and less than two percent will complete college by the time they turn 30. In addition, teen mothers and their infants are also at increased risk for poor health outcomes, such as preterm birth and low birth weight. However, the unprecedented declines over the past two decades show that progress is possible.

The TPP Program and PREP are among the few government programs that use evidence, both as criteria for funding decisions and to rigorously evaluate their efforts and results. A [study](#) by The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy found that in 2010 alone, the U.S. realized \$12 billion in savings due to the declines in the teen birth rate between 1991 and 2010. The public recognizes the value in evidence-based programs. In fact, a 2017 [poll](#) indicates that 85% of adults (75% of Republicans and 89% of Democrats) favor maintaining federal funding for the TPP Program and PREP.

Together, the \$185 million in funding for the TPP Program and PREP serve more than 400,000 youth annually. This represents a modest but strategic investment by the federal government to address the nation's high rate of teen pregnancy and 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 protect this funding that will improve the lives of youth and future generations, while reducing public sector costs.

Sincerely,

### **National Organizations**

Afterschool Alliance  
Altarum Institute, Center for Prevention  
America's Promise Alliance  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association of University Women  
(AAUW)  
American Congress 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  
Child Welfare League of America  
Children's Advocacy Institute  
Children's Aid Society Carrera Program  
Cicatelli Associates Incorporated  
Coalition of National Health Education  
Organizations  
The Dibble Institute  
The Emily Program  
Esperanza  
Eta Sigma Gamma  
ETR Associates

Fathers & Families Coalition of America  
Feminist Majority  
Girls Inc.  
Healthy Teen Network  
March of Dimes  
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  
The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and  
Unplanned Pregnancy  
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc.  
National Coalition of Pastors' Spouses  
National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSD)  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
The National Crittenton Foundation  
National Family Planning & Reproductive  
Health Association  
National Foster Care Coalition  
National Hispanic Christian Leadership  
Conference  
National Indian Education Association  
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  
Progressive Policy Institute  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
Religious Institute  
Republican Majority for Choice  
Results for America  
Select Media, Inc.  
The Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine  
Society for Public Health Education  
Sojourners  
Third Way  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Wyman Center  
YWCA US

### **State and Local Organizations**

#### AL

Alabama Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy  
(ACPTP)

#### 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  
California Family Health Council  
Coronado High School Cal-SAFE Program  
(West Covina)

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  
Legacy 4 Kids LLC (Napa)  
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)  
Petaluma Health Center  
Public Counsel Law Center – Children's  
Rights Project (Los Angeles)  
San Diego Youth Services  
STEPP Program (Truckee)  
Teen Success, Inc.  
Valley Community Clinic (North Hollywood)  
United Health Centers of the San Joaquin Valley

#### CO

Colorado Youth Matter  
Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains

#### CT

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

#### 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, Peacemakers Family Center  
(Miami)

#### GA

Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power &  
Potential  
HEAT, Inc. Holistic Education for the  
Advancement of Teens (Norcross)  
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)  
Quest for Change, Inc. (Dawson)  
Southwest Georgia Resource Center Inc.

#### HI

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

#### IL

Chicago Department of Public Health  
Lee County Health Department  
The Stacy Brill Project (Skokie)  
Rockford MELD (Rockford)

#### IN

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

#### KY

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

#### LA

Lift Louisiana

MA

Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy

MD

Crittenton Services of Greater Washington

MI

Kaizen Corporation for Children & Families:

Princesses within Motherhood (Pontiac)

Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH)

Project-U-Turn Inc. (Detroit)

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

The Teen Pregnancy & Prevention Partnership

Better Family Life, INC (St. Louis)

MN

Family Tree Clinic (St. Paul)

MS

Mississippi First/Teen Health Mississippi

Youth Opportunities Unlimited (Marks)

NC

Gang Free Inc. (Henderson)

SHIFT NC

Cabarrus Partnership for Children (Concord)

NE

The Adolescent Health Project of the Women's

Fund of Omaha

NV

Southern Nevada Health District

NY

Center for Latino Adolescent and Family Health  
(New York)

Metro Council for Teen Potential (Rochester)

OH

All About Me Teen Pregnancy Prevention  
Program (Cincinnati)

Family Planning Association of Northeast  
Ohio, Inc. (Painesville)

Partners for Successful Youth – Lucas County,  
Ohio Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition

OK

Central Oklahoma Campaign to Prevent Teen  
Pregnancy

Choctaw Nation SMART Program

Kirkpatrick Family Fund (Oklahoma City)

Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy

Teen emPower! Inc. (Oklahoma City)

Tulsa Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

PA

Family Planning Plus of SUN & MJ  
Counties (Lewisburg, PA)

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

SC

Child Abuse Prevention Association/CAPA  
(Beaufort)

South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teen  
Pregnancy

TN

A Step Ahead Chattanooga  
A Step Ahead Foundation  
A Step Ahead Foundation of Middle Tennessee  
A Step Ahead Foundation of West Tennessee  
Centerstone of Tennessee (serving TN, KY,  
and IN)  
Le Bonheur Community Health and Well-Being  
(Memphis)  
Monroe Harding (Nashville)

TX

American Congress of Obstetricians and  
Gynecologists, District XI  
Baylor Teen Health Clinic (Houston)  
City of San Antonio  
Healthy Futures of Texas  
Image Means Everything (Houston)  
LifeWorks (Austin)  
The North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen  
Pregnancy  
Texas Association of Obstetricians and  
Gynecologists  
The Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy  
Parents Anonymous of Tyler Inc. (Tyler)

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

Community Advocates Public Policy Institute  
IndependenceFirst (Milwaukee)  
Pathfinders Milwaukee, Inc.  
Health Care Education and Training (serving IN  
and WI)

WV

Mission West Virginia