Position

Healthy Teen Network supports access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services for all youth. The service array should include comprehensive sexuality education; healthy relationship education; testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and human papillomavirus; the full range of contraceptive options; and full options counseling for pregnant girls and women. Sexual and reproductive health services available to youth should be provided in youth-friendly settings and be developmentally-, culturally-, linguistically-, and gender-appropriate. They should be private, confidential, and affordable.
**Issue**

Health care, including sexual and reproductive health care, is a right of all humans. Youth cannot exercise their right to health care when there are no sexual or reproductive health services available or when their access to them is impeded due to legal, financial, practice, geographic, and attitudinal barriers.

**Supporting Information**

Youth experience disparities in sexual and reproductive health service access due to a range of factors. Some live in states with laws that require a parent’s consent before a minor-age youth may obtain contraception or an abortion. Others face risk or perception of risk in having their medical information disclosed to parents or schools. Other youth may not live in close proximity to sexual and reproductive services, or be able to utilize the services during the days and hours they are available. Still more face an inability to pay for services, although this factor is being remedied in part by the preventive health services provisions of the Affordable Care Act. Still other youth lack access to a parent, other caring adult, or even health care provider confident in their ability to discuss sexual and reproductive health matters with their youth and their patients.