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

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

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
Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues
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)
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
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)
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<th>State</th>
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<td>MI</td>
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<td>YMCA of Metro Detroit</td>
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<td>Antonia M. Villarruel, PhD, FAAN</td>
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<td>Associate Dean for Research &amp; Global Affairs, Professor and Nola J. Pender Collegiate Chair, University of Michigan School of Nursing</td>
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<td>ME</td>
<td>New Beginnings Inc. (Lewiston)</td>
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<td>(Williamston)</td>
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<td>The Adolescent Health Project of the Women’s Fund of Omaha</td>
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<td>Family Planning Association of Northeast Ohio, Inc. (Painesville)</td>
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<td>PA</td>
<td>Family Planning Plus of SUN &amp; MJ Counties (Lewisburg, PA)</td>
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<td>John B. Jemmott III, Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Professor, School of Medicine and Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>Loretta S. Jemmott, R.N., Ph.D</td>
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<td>Professor, School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania</td>
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<td>RI</td>
<td>The Rhode Island Alliance</td>
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SC
Coastal Carolina OBGYN (Conway)
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
Communities of Color United: Coalition for Racial Justice (Austin)
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
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
Davis-Stuart, Inc. (Lewisburg)
Mission West Virginia