

May 7, 2019

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
Rayburn House Office Building, 2468
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 Pelosi and McCarthy, 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 at \$110 million and the Administration on Children and Families' Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) at \$75 million, and to protect the integrity of these programs. The TPP Program and PREP have been recognized as pioneering examples of tiered, evidence-based policymaking that represent an important contribution to building a body of evidence of what works. They have traditionally included high quality implementation, evaluation, innovation, and learning from results. As Congress works on funding for FY 2020 and beyond, it is essential to preserve funding for these programs, along with their current evidence-based approach.

The teen pregnancy and teen birth rate have declined by an impressive 63 percent and 70 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. PREP and the TPP Program 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—nearly 450,000 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, making it harder for many young people to achieve their goals. 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 pioneering government programs that use evidence, both as criteria for funding decisions and to rigorously evaluate their efforts and results. 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 public recognizes the value in 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.

The TPP Program and PREP represent 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 and program integrity of PREP and the TPP Program that will improve the lives of youth and future generations, while saving on public sector spending.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Afterschool Alliance	The Dibble Institute
Altarum Institute, Center for Prevention	The Emily Program
America's Promise Alliance	EFFICACITY, LLC.
American Academy of Pediatrics	Esperanza
American Association of University Women (AAUW)	Eta Sigma Gamma
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists	ETR Associates
American Public Human Services Association	Fathers & Families Coalition of America
American School Health Association	Feminist Majority
American Sexual Health Association	First Focus
AMTC & Associates	Forum for Youth Investment
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs	Futures Without Violence
Catholics for Choice	Girls Inc.
Child Welfare League of America	Healthy Teen Network
Children's Advocacy Institute	Jacobs Institute of Women's Health
Children's Aid Society Carrera Program	Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health
Cicatelli Associates Incorporated	March of Dimes
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues	Medicines360
Coalition of National Health Education Organizations	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 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, the campaign to prevent unplanned pregnancy
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

Society for Public Health Education
Sojourners
Third Way
UnidosUS
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
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
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
New Haven Public Schools

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
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

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)

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

MD

Crittenton Services of Greater Washington

MI

Jackson County Health Department
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

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

NE

The Adolescent Health Project of the Women's
Fund of Omaha

NJ

Center for Supportive Schools (CSS)

NV

Southern Nevada Health District

NY

Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network
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)
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 Policy Group (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

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, 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)
Healthy Futures of Texas
Henderson County HELP Center
Image Means Everything (Houston)
LifeWorks (Austin)
Ntarupt (North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen
Pregnancy)
Parents Anonymous of Tyler Inc. (Tyler)
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)
Davis-Stuart, Inc. (Lewisburg)
Eastern Greenbrier Middle School (Ronceverte)
Greenbrier East High School (Lewisburg)
Mission West Virginia
Sparrows Nest (Beckley)