

September 9, 2022

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 support the following programmatic priorities:

- Increase funding for the Office of Population Affairs' (OPA) Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program to \$150 million.
- Support a multiyear reauthorization of the Administration on Children and Families' Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) at \$75 million annually.

Since 2010, the TPP Program and PREP 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 complementary programs have traditionally included high-quality implementation, evaluation, innovation, and learning from results. As Congress works on funding for FY 2023 and beyond, it is essential to provide robust funding for the TPP Program and PREP. 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 63 percent and 75 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 and 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.

For instance, Black young people are more likely to receive abstinence-only instruction, which research shows is ineffective in comparison to evidence-based, more comprehensive sex education. And Black, Indigenous, and Latinx young people are disproportionately more likely to be diagnosed with an STI, have an unintended pregnancy, or experience sexual assault. Increased resources are required for sex education to reach all young people and redress inequities and their impacts on marginalized young people.

Increased funding for the TPP Program and a multiyear reauthorization of PREP would ensure more young people who face the greatest systemic barriers to sexual health education receive the information they need—evidence-based sex education that is responsive to the needs of young people of color, LGBTQ+ young people, immigrants, those with lower incomes, those living in rural areas, and those in foster care, among others.

In addition, a [recent study](#) published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* suggests that federal funding from the TPP Program contributed to “an overall reduction in the teen birth rate at the county level of more than 3%.” [Polling](#) indicates that the general public also recognizes the value of these programs, as 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 help ensure young people have the information they need to make decisions about their bodies, health, and families that empower them to 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 and support a multiyear reauthorization of PREP. Doing so will help to improve the lives of young people and future generations.

Sincerely,

State-based organizations

A Step Ahead Foundation (TN)

Amplify Youth Health Collective (OK)

Buffalo Prenatal Perinatal Network

Champaign-Urbana Public Health District

Chicago Department of Health

Children’s Aid (NY)

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Cicatelli Associates Inc. (NY)

City of Milwaukee Health Department

Denver Health
Division of General Pediatrics & Adolescent Health, University of Minnesota
EyesOpenIowa
Fact Forward (SC)
Gang Free, Inc. (NC)
Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Power & Potential
Greater New Britain Teen Pregnancy Prevention, Inc.
Hawaii Youth Services Network
Hale Opio Kauai Inc (HI)
Health Care Education and Training, Inc. (IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI)
Healthy Futures of Texas
Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) (CA)
Investing in Our Youth, Inc. (FL)
Kirkpatrick Family Fund (OK)
LifeWorks (TX)
Lift Louisiana
Mental Health Systems, Inc. (CA)
Michigan Organization on Adolescent Sexual Health (MOASH)
My Brother's Keeper, Inc. (MS)
The North Texas Alliance to Reduce Unintended Pregnancy in Teens
Oklahoma Institute for Child Advocacy
Philadelphia Department of Public Health
Phoebe Network of Trust (GA)
Planned Parenthood of South, East and North Florida
Project Vida Health Center (TX)
RISE: Healthy for Life
Roca, Inc. (CT, MA)
San Diego Youth Services
SAY San Diego
SexEdVA
Shine Together, Inc. (CA)
Teen Health Mississippi
Texas Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
Thrive (Oklahoma County, OK)
Wyman Center (MO)
Women's Fund of Greater Chattanooga

National organizations

AIDS United
AMTC & Associates
Advocates for Youth

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Atheists
American Humanist Association
American School Health Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
Big Cities Health Coalition
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Reproductive Rights
Center for Supportive Schools (CSS)
Children's Advocacy Institute
Coalition of National Health Education Organizations
ETR
Healthy Teen Network
Jacobs Institute of Women's Health
Medicines360
NARAL Pro-Choice America
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council of Jewish Women
National Crittenton
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association.
National Institute for Reproductive Health
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Law Center
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
The Policy & Research Group
Power to Decide
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Reproductive Health Access Project
Results for America
Rural School and Community Trust
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine

Third Way

Union for Reform Judaism

Upstream USA

URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity

Women of Reform Judaism