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For Immediate Release

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House Subcommittee Bill Eliminates Programs that Reduce Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

A Statement from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

(Washington, DC)—On July 7, the House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services and Education (LHHS) Subcommittee passed its version of the LHHS appropriations bill for FY 2017. The bill—which passed along party lines—eliminated programs critical to reducing teen and unplanned pregnancy, despite amendments offered by Representatives DeLauro (D-CT) and Lowey (D-NY) to restore funds. Specifically, the bill:

- Eliminated the evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP), currently funded at \$101 million for FY 2016.
- Eliminated the Title X Family Planning Program, currently funded at \$286.5 million for FY 2016.

The bill would provide \$20 million for the competitive abstinence education grant program (sometimes called Sexual Risk Avoidance), a \$10 million increase over the FY 2016 level.

“We are disappointed that the House Subcommittee bill eliminates the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program and the Title X Family Planning Program,” said Ginny Ehrlich, CEO of The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. “The TPPP has contributed to increased success in reducing the rates of teen pregnancy. Teen childbearing has declined 35 percent since the evidence-based TPPP began in 2010, which is more than double the decline in any other five-year period. Even so, we still have work to do. Nearly one in four girls in this country become pregnant before the age of 20, and significant disparities remain for young women of color. Further, the elimination of the Title X family planning program will have grave impacts on access to reliable contraception. This is particularly alarming at a time when the nation faces the looming public health crisis of [Zika](#). Many more cases of Zika are expected in the U.S. in the coming months, making it more important than ever to ensure that all people have access to effective contraception—exactly what Title X provides. Eliminating these programs is destructive to the nation’s efforts to reduce teen and unplanned pregnancy. We know that providing young women with the information and access to what they need

to decide when, if, and under what circumstances to get pregnant has great potential to contribute to improved educational attainment and economic mobility for the teens and young women themselves, as well as better outcomes for our next generation. We also know that these programs contribute to fewer abortions and reduced public costs. We urge Congress to follow the bipartisan lead of Senate Appropriators and to fully fund these programs.”

About The National Campaign. The National Campaign works to reduce both teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy. If we are successful in reducing unplanned pregnancy among teens and young women, child and family wellbeing will improve, there will be less poverty, and more young men and women will complete their education or achieve other life goals. For more information, visit www.TheNationalCampaign.org.