

MAY 8, 2017

## How Can You Help to Protect the TPP Program and Title X?

### The Latest

- At the beginning of May, the President signed an [omnibus appropriations bill](#), to fund the government through the end of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017—which ends September 30, 2017. It maintains level funding for the TPP Program (\$101 million) and the Title X Family Planning Program (\$286.5 million)—[pages 987 and 952 of the bill, respectively]. Please see The National Campaign’s statement [here](#).
- While this is an important short-term victory, we continue to need your help to protect funding for the TPP Program and Title X for FY 2018 (which runs from October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018), as the House and Senate Appropriations Committees will soon begin drafting spending bills for FY 2018. See The National Campaign’s [FY 2018 Appropriations Request Letter](#).
- While separate from the appropriations process described above, we also need your help to secure ongoing support for the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP). PREP is currently funded through the end of FY 2017. Continued funding will likely be part of a broader “health extenders” package.

### Everyone Can Do Something to Protect Funding. What Can You Do?

**Advocate.** Take advantage of recess in the [House](#) and [Senate](#) when members of Congress will be in their home districts and try to set up meetings and site visits with them. You can use our [sample advocacy letter](#) or [sample education letter](#) to reach out to your members of Congress (just amend the letter to include an invite to visit your site). You can also talk to them at town halls and other events they hold or attend. For those of you focused on protecting contraception access and coverage, feel free to use these [questions](#) we developed.

It is critical that those of you who are able to advocate weigh-in with your members of Congress, especially if there is a [current TPP Program grant benefitting your community](#). The ask is **“please maintain funding for the evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program and the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) for FY 2018 and beyond.”** Remember, grantees can advocate (ask members to take action on legislation or vote in a specific way) for this federal funding, they just cannot use their federal funds to do so.

**Educate.** If you aren’t able to advocate, you can still help protect the TPP Program and/or PREP by educating members about the great work that these programs fund in your community. See our [sample education letter](#) as a guide for your efforts.

**Don’t forget about Title X.** If you are able to advocate or educate about the need for the Title X Family Planning Program, you can use our [Title X talking points](#), as well as our polling resources [Everyone Loves Birth Control](#) and [Survey Says: Thanks, Birth Control](#) to do so.

**Whether you are contacting your members of Congress about the TPP Program, PREP, Title X, or all three, please share our latest [polling](#)—which shows broad bipartisan support for all three programs.**

To look up your Representative, [click here](#) and enter your zip code in the box on the top right. To view your Senators, [click here](#).

#### **Key Messages:**

- Investing in evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs saves taxpayer dollars. Teen pregnancy costs taxpayers at least \$9.4 billion annually, and the estimated savings in 2010 alone due to the 61% decline in the teen birth rate between 1991 and 2010 was \$12 billion.
- 85% of adults (including 75% of Republicans and 89% of Democrats) favor maintaining federal funding for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program and the Personal Responsibility Education Program.
- 75% of adults (including 66% of Republicans and 84% of Democrats) favor continuing the Title X Program.

#### **Additional Actions You Can Take:**

- 1) If you haven't already, have your [organization sign-on](#) to this [letter](#) from nearly 200 national, state, and local groups asking Congressional Leadership to support maintaining investments in the evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program and the Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP). ([Click here](#) to sign-on.)
- 2) Develop a statement or news release to make sure local press know about the grants serving your area, and the great work they're supporting in your community.
- 3) Create documents that demonstrate the scope of your project, how much funding is going into the state or district, and how many people are being served with the funds. See grantee [Success Stories](#) created by the Office of Adolescent Health for some good examples, and a [great one-pager](#) from TPP Program grantee, Mission West Virginia. Include your documents when reaching out to your members of Congress.
- 4) If you aren't already, collect short stories or quotes from the youth you serve, and parents/guardians when possible, to showcase the impact of your work in the community and to put a personal face on the work you do. Use these to enhance communications that highlight the importance of your work and the need for continued funding.
- 5) Take advantage of recess in the [House](#) and [Senate](#) when members of Congress will be in their home districts and try to set up meetings and site visits with them. You can use our [sample advocacy letter](#) or [sample education letter](#) to reach out to your members of Congress (just amend the letter to include an invite to visit your site).
- 6) Send an alert to others in your network asking them to contact elected officials to let them know about the value of your program. Feel free to use our language to make it easier. Ask the young people you work with to lend their voice—they can write letters to the editor, send emails to elected officials, and/or use social media to encourage their friends to contact their elected officials.

- 7) If you have board members or other friends who have good relationships with your congressional delegation, encourage them to weigh in—a quick phone call or email from someone who is well connected goes a long way.

**Resources:**

- [The Hill](#) op-ed by The National Campaign's CEO Ginny Ehrlich, in response to arguments put forth by advocates of abstinence-only programs. It's a great explanation of what makes the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program unique and its strength—a focus on evidence.
- [Budgeting Blunder](#) blog post by The National Campaign's Policy Director Rachel Fey about the Trump Administration's proposed domestic spending cuts for the remainder of Fiscal Year (FY) 2017.
- [Letter](#) from nearly 200 national, state, and local groups demonstrating broad support for maintaining funding for evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs.
- [Blog post](#) from People for the American Way: Keep the War on Science Away from Proven Teen Pregnancy Prevention Programs.
- The National Campaign's [FY 2018 Appropriations Request Letter](#).
- [Polling data](#) that demonstrates widespread support for the evidence-based TPP Program and Title X. This more [detailed survey data](#) demonstrates support across political, regional, racial/ethnic, and regional groups.
- [State specific information](#) about teen and unplanned pregnancy, and TPP Program and Title X grants going to the state.
- It's About Evidence: What You Need to Know About The Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program ([TPP Program Talking Points](#)).