

Family Planning Coalition

c/o National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
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March 2, 2012

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
United States House
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
United States House
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Inouye and Rogers and Ranking Members Cochran and Dicks:

As deliberations begin for Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 appropriations, the undersigned members of the Family Planning Coalition call on you to protect the critical, cost-saving programs that provide family planning, sexual, and reproductive health care to millions of women, men, children, and families. The organizations below collectively represent millions of administrators, providers, and patients who share the common mission of supporting and protecting federal funds for these safety-net services.

We ask that you protect funding for the Title X family planning program, Title V Maternal and Child Health Services (MCH) Block Grant, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative (TPPI) and related evaluation, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Division of STD Prevention (DSTDP) and Division of Adolescent and School Health (DASH) by supporting the following funding levels for FY 2013:

Title X provides high-quality, cost-saving, family planning services and other preventive health care to over 5.2 million low-income or uninsured individuals—about one third of the total need for publicly funded family planning careⁱ—who may otherwise lack access to health care. In order to restore the program to its full capacity after two fiscal years totaling \$23.6 million in cuts and meet the growing demands of a vulnerable population, we request that you **increase Title X funding to \$327.4 million in FY 2013.**

The Title V MCH Block Grant provides and ensures mothers and children have access to high-quality maternal and child health services, especially for those with low incomes or those living in areas with limited availability; in order to maintain these safety-net services please **fund the Title V MCH Block Grant at the FY 2012 appropriated level of \$645 million in FY 2013.**

The TPPI funds medically accurate, age-appropriate, and evidence-based programs to reduce teen pregnancy and underlying behavioral risk factors, but program funding has been repeatedly continuously reduced since its inception in FY 2010. Enable the TPPI to serve an additional 100,000 students by **increasing TPPI funding to \$130 million in FY 2013**. Additionally, evidence-based programs require adequate evaluation resources. The president and Congress recognized this need by increasing TPPI evaluation funding to \$8.5 million in FY 2012; please continue to give TPPI the ability to provide the highest-quality programs by **maintaining TPPI evaluation funding at \$8.5 million in FY 2013**.

The DSTDP within CDC provides leadership, research, policy development, and scientific information by assisting health departments, health providers, and non-governmental organizations help people live safer and healthier lives through STD prevention efforts. Alarming and costly STD rate trends are being seen in the US; we request that you help reverse these trends by **increasing DSTDP funding to \$180 million in FY 2013**.

CDC's DASH is a unique source of support for HIV prevention efforts in our nation's schools, and provides funding and technical assistance to HIV/STD prevention programs. Despite research that shows well-designed, well-implemented, school-based HIV/STD prevention programs can significantly reduce sexual risk behaviors among students, the program was cut by 25% last year. We ask you to support these proven school-based prevention programs by **increasing DASH funding to \$50 million in FY 2013**.

These vital public health programs are much-needed investments towards improving the health of women, men, children, and families across the country. Both the number and the percentage of people living in poverty has increased in nearly every US state and city since 2009.ⁱⁱ Despite the increasing need, funding for these programs has come under attack and suffered reductions in recent years. Additional cuts would devastate these programs and further burden states and communities struggling to meet the ever-increasing need for family planning, sexual, and reproductive health services.

When a growing number of Americans are in need of help, it is unconscionable for Congress to make further cuts to the services that families need to be healthy. We cannot continue to fray the public health safety net that supports them, especially now.

Together, these public health programs promote healthy women, men, children, and families, and reduce preventable health care costs. Title X, Title V, TPPI, DSTDP and DASH are integral components of the public health safety net that millions of low-income, uninsured, and underinsured Americans rely on every day for their health care needs. The Family Planning Coalition urges you to protect funding for these family planning, sexual, and reproductive health programs.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Jesseca Boyer at the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association at jboyer@nfprha.org or 202-293-3114.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Youth
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Medical Student Association
American Medical Women's Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Black Women's Health Imperative
Catholics for Choice
Center for Women Policy Studies
Jewish Women International
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Abortion Federation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Coalition of Jewish Women
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
People For the American Way
Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Connection
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S.
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Union for Reform Judaism

Cc: The United States Senate
The United States House of Representatives

ⁱ Guttmacher Institute, Contraceptive Needs and Services, 2008 Update, New York 2010.

<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/win/contraceptive-needs-2008.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ Lisa Lambert, "Poverty rates up in most U.S. states, cities: Census," *Reuters*, October 20, 2011,

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/10/20/us-usa-states-poverty-idUSTRE79J83O20111020?feedType=RSS&feedName=domesticNews>.