

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 2, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We, as members of the Democratic Women’s Caucus and Democratic Caucus, are disturbed by the cancellation of 53 of the 66 active grants, approximately \$68 million dollars of grant funding, in the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services’ (HHS) Office of Population Affairs.¹ We request an immediate reversal of the termination of these funds and responses to the inquiries included below.

The HHS Office of Population Affairs (OPA) Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program is a tiered, evidence-based program that provides competitive grants to diverse organizations working to prevent teen pregnancy across the United States and its territories. Millions of young people across the country have positively benefited from the programs funded by TPP funds. The teen birth rate has fallen 81% since 1991 and 72% since 2007.² The outcomes of this program save lives as teenage pregnancies are at high risk for health complications. Specifically, teenagers 16-19 years old face increased risk of preterm birth, and teens 15 years old and younger are even more vulnerable to health complications.³ Overall, the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program has an established history of investing in community-driven strategies, identifying new curricula that work through rigorous evaluation, and supporting their implementation with fidelity.

Congress has long appropriated the funds for this program in a bipartisan manner recognizing the importance of helping young people make healthy decisions and sustaining a program that leads to reduced sexual risk behavior, decreased sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and fewer unintended teen pregnancies. Congress has specifically designated the majority of funds (Tier 1) to be appropriated for “*replicating programs that have been proven effective through rigorous evaluation to reduce teenage pregnancy, behavioral risk factors underlying teenage pregnancy, or other associated risk factors.*” A smaller percentage of funds (Tier 2) are dedicated to the development and testing of new programs⁴. Together, Tier 1 and Tier 2 grantees have served millions of young people and expanded a growing body of evidence of what works to prevent teen pregnancy. In fact, the contributions of the TPP Program were also acknowledged in a September 2017 unanimously-agreed-to-report from the Bipartisan Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking, who highlighted the TPP

¹ Kelcie Moseley-Morris, “Federal Health Agency Cancels Most of Its Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grants,” *Stateline*, June 26, 2026, <https://stateline.org/2026/06/26/federal-health-agency-cancels-most-of-its-teen-pregnancy-prevention-grants/>

² Brady E. Hamilton, Michelle J.K. Osterman, and Elizabeth C.W. Gregory, *Births: Provisional Data for 2025*, Vital Statistics Rapid Release no. 43 (Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics, April 9, 2026), <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/vsrr/vsrr043.pdf>

³ Anne M. Ambia, “Pregnancy Before 16 Increases Long-Term Health Complications for Girls and Babies,” *UT Southwestern Medical Center*, April 11, 2023, <https://utswmed.org/medblog/early-teen-pregnancy-health-risks/>

⁴ P.L. 119-75, 140 STAT. 281

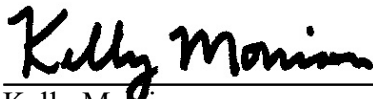
Program as an example of a federal program developing increasingly rigorous portfolios of evidence.⁵ Rigorous evaluation and evidence-based practices are essential to the continued success of teen pregnancy prevention efforts for which millions of dollars have already been invested.

Most recently, Congress passed and the President signed into law H.R. 7148, the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026*, on February 3, 2026, which reauthorized the funds for the TPP program and maintained the program's focus on replicating programs that have been proven effective through rigorous evaluation, for research and demonstration grants to develop, replicate, refine, and test additional models and innovative strategies for preventing teenage pregnancy, and to carry out evaluations (including longitudinal evaluations) of teenage pregnancy prevention approaches. Redirecting funding from the TPP program jeopardizes access to the high-quality health education, support, and resources that Congress intended. Abrupt and arbitrary disruptions on grounds unrelated to the core aims of the TPP program undermine the ability of the program to serve its congressionally intended purpose of giving young people the knowledge and tools needed to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes and promote positive experiences, relationships, and environments that help our nation's youth thrive.

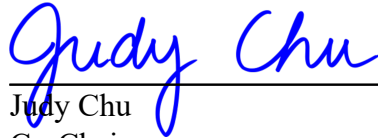
We urge HHS to immediately reverse the grant terminations and request a response to the following inquiries by July 10, 2026.

1. Please explain the rationale for each of the 53 cancellations clarifying how each program "no longer effectuates agency priorities."
2. Please provide justification as to why each of the 53 terminated grants do not align with the direction given under the language appropriating these funds as outlined in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2026*.
3. Please explain the rationale for issuing two new notices of funding opportunities (NOFOs) with intentions not outlined in the authority granted under law by under Division B, Title II of the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026*.

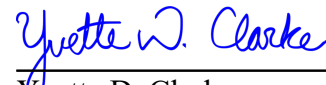
Sincerely,



Kelly Morrison
Co-Chair
Reproductive Health Care Task
Force
Democratic Women's Caucus




Judy Chu
Co-Chair
Reproductive Health Care Task
Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

⁵ Nick Hart and Meron Yohannes, eds., *Evidence Works: Cases Where Evidence Meaningfully Informed Policy* (Washington, DC: Bipartisan Policy Center, 2019), <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/Evidence-Works-Cases-Where-Evidence-Meaningfully-Informed-Policy.pdf>



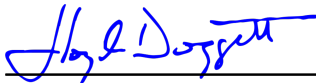
Analilia Mejia
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



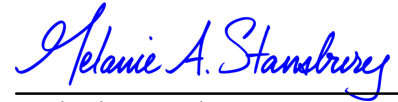
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



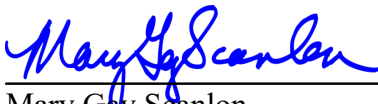
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Co-Chair
Member Services Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress



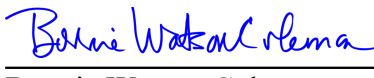
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



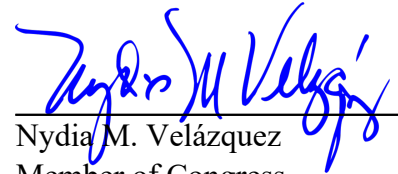
Adelta S. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress




Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Congressional Hispanic Caucus
Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



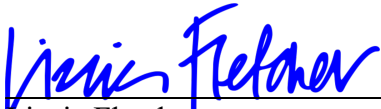
Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



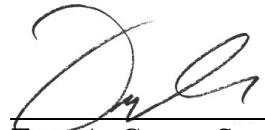
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



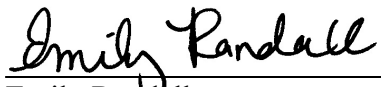
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



JH Tokuda
Progressive Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



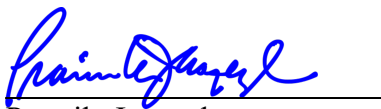
Emily Randall
Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



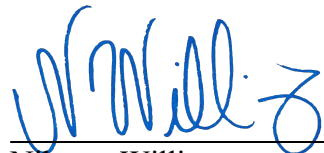
Dave Min
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Congressional Asian Pacific
American Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus




Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



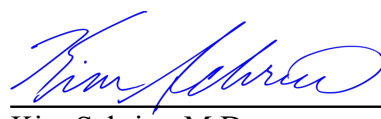
Nikema Williams
Chief Whip
Democratic Women's Caucus



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress




Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



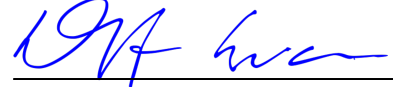
Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
National Leaders & Advocacy
Organizations Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



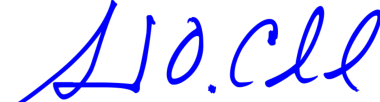
Chrissy Boulahan
Chair
Servicewomen, Women Veterans,
and Military Families Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



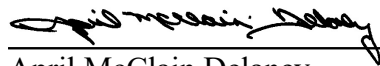
Deborah K. Ross
Co-Chair
Policy Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



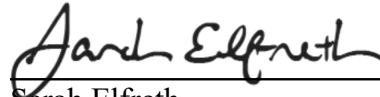
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



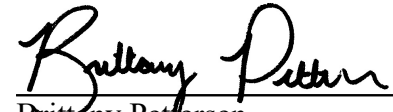
Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



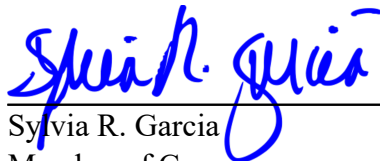
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



Brittany Petersen
Co-Chair
Caregiving Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



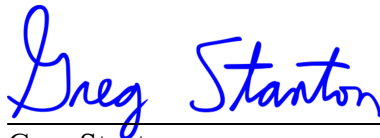
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



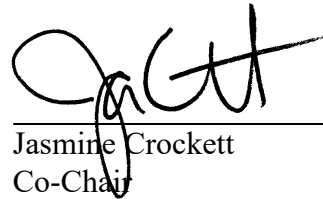
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



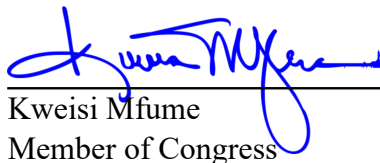
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Co-Chair
Communications Task Force
Democratic Women's Caucus



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress



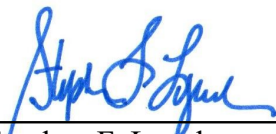
Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



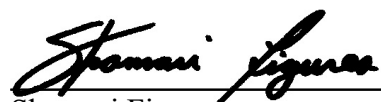
Julie Johnson
Equality Caucus Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Lucy McBath
Congressional Black Caucus
Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress



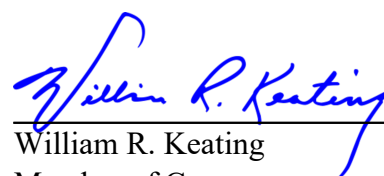
Shomari Figures
Member of Congress



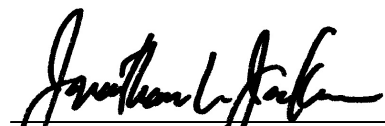
LaMonica McIver
New Member Liaison
Democratic Women's Caucus



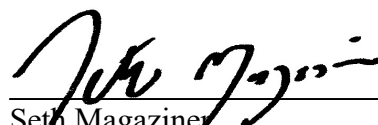
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



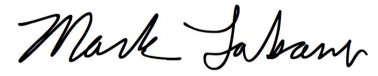
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



Lois Frankel
Chair Emerita
Democratic Women's Caucus

Jahana Hayes

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress