



For Immediate Release

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Lift Your Voice: Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP) and Title X are in peril for FY 2016

Dallas, TX, June 17, 2015 - Our communities tend to stigmatize young mothers and send negative messages to all teens about sex instead of providing them medically accurate information. Not all young people have equal access to education, employment, preventative health services, and other resources. We must acknowledge access to resources diminishes further when they become pregnant. Pregnant teens face many of the same barriers as young persons of color, immigrants, or low-income citizens. These barriers inhibit their ability to lead healthy lives and thrive as families. Systemic injustice, generational poverty, and cyclical teen motherhood will continue to exist and grow with the government's diversion of funds from social service.

Recently, the House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee released its draft FY 2016 spending bill, which eliminates the evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP) and the Title X Family Planning Program.

Let's break it down:

- All \$101 million in TPPP funding will be eliminated and a bill for \$20 million will take its place focusing on "age appropriate," "sexual risk avoidance," and "refraining from non-marital sexual activity)" teen pregnancy prevention.
- Furthermore, the House bill eliminates all \$286 million in funding for Title X Family Planning Program that provides millions of low income women and men with contraception.
- And finally, the House bill's broad language allows insurers (including student health plans and employers) to not cover any service for which they have a religious or moral objection.

Imagine the impact to Texas, which is **4th** in the nation for overall births to teens and **#1** in the nation for repeat teen births. Even closer to home, Dallas is the **#1** city in the state for **repeat** teen births and touts **8** zip codes with a teen birth rate that exceeds **300%** of the national teen birth rate. These young women and men desperately need funding for programs to support their efforts to access education, obtain health services, gain life skills, receive workforce training, and apply for jobs that pay a living wage to support their families.

If we truly want to build a world class city we need to be honest about the issues our residents face and encourage elected officials to weigh in on the devastating effects of eliminating these programs. In North Texas alone, agencies like Alley's House, North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen Pregnancy (NTARuPT), Girls Inc, the Concilio, UT Southwestern and more will be drastically limited in their abilities to serve at-risk teens and pregnant and parenting young women.



We encourage you to lift your voice and make yourself heard by your representatives. This issue affects us all; whether you know a former teen mother, you may be one yourself, or you may know teenagers who desperately need resources before they become young parents. Regardless of our differences, we hold shared values of compassion to serve and lift up our communities.

It's imperative that you weigh in with your members of Congress immediately on the value of these programs, particularly if they are on the House or Senate Appropriations Committee. **Please ask them to fully fund the evidence-based Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP) at \$101 million and Title X at \$286 million for FY 2016.** (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](#).) The National Campaign has developed talking points on both [TPPP](#) and [Title X](#) that you can use when talking to your elected official.

This is a first, and vastly important, step in the process. The full House Appropriations Committee has not yet set a date for consideration of this bill and the Senate Appropriations process will begin as early as next week.

About Alley's House: Alley's House serves any pregnant or parenting teen mom (ages 13 to 21) in the Dallas/Fort Worth metroplex, though the majority of our young moms live in Dallas County. Our mission is to provide a nurturing, stable environment to help teen mothers overcome obstacles and become thriving women through counseling, innovative learning, and workforce development. To learn more about Alley's House visit www.alleyshouse.org or call 214-824-8700.

About NTARuPT: The North Texas Alliance to Reduce Teen Pregnancy is a non-partisan nonprofit that seeks to improve the quality of life for children, families, and communities by preventing unintended teen pregnancies. Our vision is that every young person in our community has the opportunity to set goals, plan education and careers and become self-sufficient before entering into parenthood. NTARuPT is a coalition of 35 members across North Texas working on reproductive health issues. To learn more about NTARuPT visit www.ntarupt.org.

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