



April 25, 2011

The Honorable Daniel Inouye
Chairman, Senate Appropriations
Committee
U.S. Capitol Building, S-128
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member, Senate
Appropriations Committee
U.S. Capitol Building, S-146A
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on Labor, Health and Human Services, and
Education
731 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member, Senate
Appropriations Subcommittee on
Labor, Health and Human Services,
and Education
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Inouye and Harkin and Ranking Members Cochran and Shelby:

On behalf of The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, I would like to express appreciation for the inclusion of continued funding for the Title X national family planning program in the Fiscal Year 2011 Continuing Resolution, H.R. 1473. While the cut of \$17 million from FY 2010 is painful, this represents a dramatic improvement over H.R.1, which proposed to eliminate the program. For FY 2012, we respectfully request that the program be funded at \$327 million, which is consistent with the President's budget request. Over the past 40 years, Title X has played a critical role in preventing unplanned pregnancy by offering high-quality contraceptive services, preventive screenings, and health education to approximately five million low-income and uninsured women and men through a network of more than 4,500 community-based clinics.

At a time when there is much discussion both about reducing abortion and the federal deficit, it is critical to ensure that there is adequate funding for a program that provides widely-supported contraceptive services that leads to less abortion and saves taxpayer dollars. In 2008 alone, Title X-funded clinics helped to avert some 973,000 unintended pregnancies, which would have resulted in approximately 433,000 unplanned births and 406,000 abortions. As noted in an April 2011 article in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, family planning is a cost-saving preventive health service. For every dollar spent on publicly funded family planning clinic services, the government saves \$3.74 in Medicaid-related costs. In a single year, publicly-funded family planning services, including those subsidized by Title X funding, saved state and federal governments \$4.3 billion. Title X provides basic health care to millions of women, and

for many of these women, Title X is their primary source of health care, making Title X an important safety net program.

We recognize that in this time of budget constraints resources are limited. However, proposals to cut – even eliminate – this program are penny-wise, pound-foolish. A strengthened Title X program will help reduce unplanned pregnancy and in turn reduce taxpayer costs, result in fewer abortions, strengthen our economic competitiveness, make families healthier, and improve prospects for this and the next generation.

In addition to increased funding for Title X, we also urge you to fund evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs through OAH at \$118.5 million and to provide adequate funding levels for other important programs that help to reduce teen and unplanned pregnancy more generally, including the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and Community Health Centers.

Thank you for your consideration. For any further information, please contact Lisa Shuger, Director of Public Policy, at 202-478-8576 or lshuger@thenc.org.

Sincerely,



Sarah S. Brown
CEO