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For Immediate Release

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President Obama Signs Historic Health Reform Legislation into Law
Statement from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

On March 23, 2010, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act was signed into law by President Obama. The landmark health reform legislation, which will be phased in over the next four years, includes several provisions related to preventing teen and unplanned pregnancy.

- ◆ **Cost-sharing protections for covered women's preventive services to be designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration**, which could include family planning;
- ◆ A requirement that health insurance plans participating in the Health Benefit Exchanges established by states must contract with essential community providers, including family planning centers, community health centers, and public hospitals that serve predominantly low-income and medically underserved individuals;
- ◆ **The Medicaid Family Planning State Optional Amendment**, which allows states that want to expand family planning eligibility to the same eligibility as pregnancy-related care to do so through a state option rather than a waiver;
- ◆ **An overall Medicaid expansion to cover childless adults who earn up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level**, which will lead to increased access to family planning services, particularly for single, young adults;
- ◆ **Dependent coverage**, which will allow young adults to stay on their parents' health plan until age 26;
- ◆ **\$75 million annually over five years in mandatory funding for evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention grants for states and tribes**, along with funding for innovative approaches, technical assistance, and other program support;
- ◆ **Grants to states for voluntary home visitation programs**, which research has demonstrated improves health and social outcomes for children, women, and their families through improved prenatal health, fewer childhood injuries, fewer subsequent unplanned pregnancies, increased intervals between births, increased maternal employment, and improved school readiness for children.

The package also restores Title V abstinence-only education funds, providing \$50 million annually over five years in formula grants for states and territories.

"A signature of this historic legislation is its focus on prevention and women's health," said Sarah Brown, CEO of The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. "The cost sharing protections for women's preventive services in this legislation are especially important for family planning—one of the top ten public health achievements of the 20th century according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Pregnancy planning and prevention through wider access to contraception is a cost effective and widely-supported way to improve child and family well-being. We look forward to working with the Administration on making this investment in America's future a reality."

Although H.R. 3590 has been signed into law, efforts to complete health reform continued with the Senate's passage (56-43) of a budget reconciliation "fixes" package that was passed on March 21 by the House (220-211). However, due to slight changes in the package during Senate consideration, the bill was sent back to the House for final approval. On March 25, the House passed the fixed reconciliation package by a vote of 220 to 207. The reconciliation bill has been sent to the President for signature.

About The National Campaign

The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy seeks to improve the lives and future prospects of children and families. Our specific strategy is to prevent teen pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy among single, young adults. We support a combination of responsible values and behavior by both men and women and responsible policies in both the public and private sectors. If we are successful, child and family well-being will improve. There will be less poverty, more opportunities for young men and women to complete their education or achieve other life goals, fewer abortions, and a stronger nation.

Visit www.TheNationalCampaign.org for more information.

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