



The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy Statement on Senate Finance Committee 10/13/09 Vote

On October 13, the Senate Finance Committee passed its health reform bill, which includes a substantial and much-needed investment in teen pregnancy prevention programs. The Personal Responsibility Education for Adulthood Training (PRE-Adulthood Training) program would provide a total of \$75 million to help young people avoid teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including \$50 million to states and territories for proven, evidence-based programs each year for the next five years. These programs would also address several other issues to help prepare youth for adulthood including healthy relationships, financial literacy, parent-child communication, and educational and career success.

As an organization dedicated to preventing teen and unplanned pregnancy and deeply committed to research and evidence, we applaud Chairman Baucus and the committee for the focus on strong science. The PRE-Adulthood Training funding would also support innovative strategies and services for high risk and vulnerable youth, funds for Indian tribes and tribal organizations to address this important challenge, research, evaluation, and technical assistance, including a national teen pregnancy prevention resource center to support the work of states, tribes, and communities.

The health reform bill would also restore the Title V abstinence-only education funds for states and territories.

The Senate Finance health reform bill will now be merged with a health reform bill passed out of the Senate HELP Committee, before going to the Senate Floor.

Given the recent increase in the teen birth rate, a commitment to evidence-based programs is critical to intensify teen pregnancy prevention efforts around the country. This investment will help prepare young people for successful transitions to adulthood, alleviate poverty and improve educational outcomes, and improve overall child and family well-being. We urge the Senate to maintain this focus on programs with evidence of success and to include this important provision in the final health reform bill that emerges from Congress.

In addition to the stable funding that would be available to states and territories once a final health reform bill is passed, Congress is also set to pass the Labor-HHS Appropriations bill, which includes separate funding for evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs for FY 2010. President Obama proposed \$128 million for a new teen pregnancy prevention initiative, which the House included in its Labor-HHS Appropriations bill. The Senate Appropriations committee included \$105 million in the bill it passed, which is awaiting a vote in the full Senate.