



March 22, 2010
For Immediate Release

Contact: Bill Albert
202-478-8510

Congress Passes Landmark Health Reform Legislation
Statement from The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

Yesterday the United States House of Representatives passed HR. 3590, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, by a vote of 219-212. The passage of the health reform measure, which was previously approved by the U.S. Senate in December, clears the way for the package to be signed into law by the President early this week.

"The passage of this historic legislation includes several important provisions that will help reduce teen and unplanned pregnancy and make a positive difference in the lives of children and families," said Sarah Brown, CEO of The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy. "We are particularly pleased that federal funding for evidence-based efforts to prevent teen pregnancy now total about \$185 million—up from zero just months ago. Coupling the \$75 million in this legislation with \$110 already committed to preventing teen pregnancy by the Obama administration and Congress is a terrific investment in America's future."

Highlights include:

- ◆ **\$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;
- ◆ **Cost-sharing protections for covered women's preventive services to be designated by the Health Resources and Services Administration**, which could include family planning;
- ◆ **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;
- ◆ **Grants to states for voluntary home visitation programs**, which research has demonstrated to improve 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; and

- ◆ **Dependent coverage**, which will allow young adults to stay on their parents' health plan until age 26.

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

Although H.R. 3590 will be signed into law, efforts to complete health reform continue. Tuesday, the Senate will begin consideration of a budget reconciliation package that was also passed by the House yesterday (220-211).

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.

###