



Sarah S. Brown
Director

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March 2, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

On behalf of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, I would like to thank you for your past support of the Title X national family planning program and respectfully request that the program be included as a top funding priority in Fiscal Year 2008. Title X provides critical funding for family planning services for low-income individuals in the United States, yet funding levels have been stagnant for a number of years and have not kept pace with the need. As such, we believe that the Title X program should be funded above the President's level funding request of \$283.1 million.

As you know, Title X funds allow the provision of reproductive health services to approximately 5 million low-income and uninsured teens and adults. According to DHHS, in FY2004, Title X family planning services helped avert 1.1 million unintended pregnancies, including more than 300,000 unintended teen pregnancies. Research by the Guttmacher Institute shows that every dollar spent to expand funding for Title X would save \$3.80.

Since the 1990s, the nation has made extraordinary progress in reducing teen pregnancies, the vast majority of which are unplanned. However, despite a one-third decline in teen pregnancy rates over the past decade, one in three teen girls still gets pregnant at least once before age 20 and a recent analysis released by the National Campaign shows that teen childbearing costs taxpayers at least \$9.1 billion annually. At the same time, young adults aged 20 to 24 have made *no* progress in recent years: in fact, among poor women, many of whom depend on Title X services, the rate of unplanned pregnancy has *increased* by almost 30 percent between 1995 and 2002. While the *rate* of unplanned pregnancy is highest among teens, the largest *number* of such pregnancies is found among women 20 and over.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to provide additional funding for the Title X national family planning program in order to help reduce the high rates of unintended pregnancy in our country, and in turn improve outcomes for children, families, and society.

We realize that the current fiscal environment means you face tough choices and sincerely hope you will give serious consideration to increasing investments in Title X. Please contact Andrea Kane, Senior Director of Policy and Partnerships at 202-478-8554 or Jessica Swafford, Manager of Public Policy, at 202-478-8529 for any further information regarding this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Sarah S. Brown
Director