Action Alert

Support Family Planning Funding for Adolescents

SAHM
SOCIETY FOR ADOLESCENT HEALTH AND MEDICINE

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

Funding for family planning is at risk. Efforts are underway in the U.S. Congress to reduce or eliminate funding for the Title X family planning program. Some in Congress are also attempting to prohibit any Title X funding from going to Planned Parenthood, a major provider of reproductive health for adolescents.

Your voice is needed to speak up for the importance of reproductive health care for adolescents. Time is of the essence. The U.S. Congress is aiming to pass a spending bill by December 11 and states are calling the importance of family planning into question.

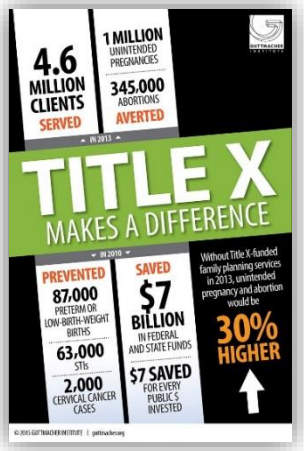
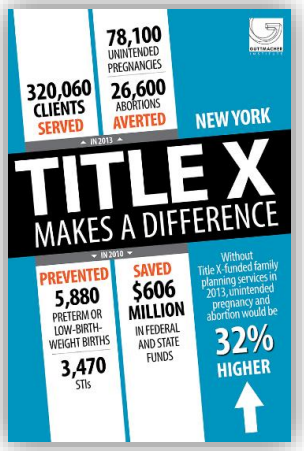
What can you do?

Find your U.S. representative and your U.S. senators. Call them, email them, or ask to meet with them in person. Give them the following message:

> *As a constituent and a health care provider for adolescents, I see firsthand the importance of access to reproductive health care for adolescents. Each year there are over 600,000 teenage pregnancies, 80% of which are unintended. Teenage parents are less likely to finish high school, making it more difficult for them to gain financial stability as an adult.*
>
> *Health centers, like those funded by the Title X family planning program, offer needed contraception, screening, and other preventive care to improve adolescent health and reduce unintended pregnancy. Planned Parenthood, for instance, offers reproductive health care services that are low-cost and accessible to adolescents. The contraceptive services provided by Planned Parenthood in one year were able to prevent over half a million unintended pregnancies.*
>
> *Recent declines in adolescent pregnancy rates will be at risk if we cut back on funding for these important services. Please support strong funding for family planning programs and resist political interference with Title X grantees.*

AAP members can automatically email this message to their federal officials through the AAP federal advocacy website.

Additional Resources

The **Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine** and the **American Academy of Pediatrics** have created a factsheet on the importance of family planning for adolescents. Share this information with your elected officials.

The **Guttmacher Institute** has created helpful infographics on the importance of Title X, both nationally and in your own state. Share this state-specific information with policymakers in your state.