

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 19, 2013

The Honorable Jack Kingston
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education
Committee on Appropriations
United States Congress
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kingston and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We are writing to urge continued support for the important proven and effective Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPPP). TPPP, administered through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Adolescent Health, was established in 2010 and provides funding that allows communities to replicate a variety of proven approaches to preventing teen pregnancy and to further evaluate promising approaches. We are requesting that support for this grant program remain at level funding of \$105 million.

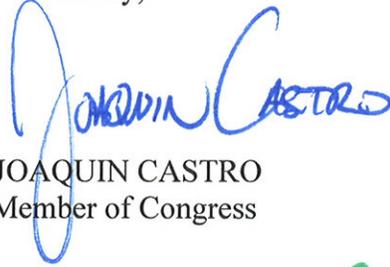
Texas, unfortunately, has one of the highest teen pregnancy and birth rates in the nation. The state ranked 48th of 50 (second worst) in teen pregnancies in 2008 and 47th of 50 in teen births in 2010. What's more, in 2010, Texas led the nation in the rate of repeat births, with 22 percent of girls ages 15-19 having a second child. These teen pregnancies not only permanently impact the lives of youth, children and their communities, but also result in significant costs to federal and state taxpayers. In 2008, the public cost of teen childbearing was \$10.9 billion nationally and \$1.2 billion in Texas alone.

Implementing proven, effective and evidence-based programs in at-risk communities will save money over time and, more importantly, help our young people gain education and essential life skills that will help them develop into productive adults.

Seven TPPP grants are providing much-needed education for youth in Texas, using research-based approaches. Equipping teens with important life skills as education can greatly increase the likelihood of preventing teen pregnancy and other at-risk behavior. Continued support for this program also has the potential to result in significant cost savings for taxpayers. The 20 percent reduction in teen childbearing in Texas, experienced from 1991 to 2008, resulted in \$408 million in savings to taxpayers in 2008 alone.

Investment in the TPPP is making a real difference in our communities and we urge you to continue funding for the program at current levels. Thank you for your continued leadership on this issue and for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



JOAQUIN CASTRO
Member of Congress



LLOYD DOGGETT
Member of Congress



AL GREEN
Member of Congress



SHELIA JACKSON LEE
Member of Congress



FILEMON VELA
Member of Congress



RUBEN HINOJOSA
Member of Congress