

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3215

September 24, 2026

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

We write as members of the New York congressional delegation to follow up on our August 5 letter regarding the termination of Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program grants in New York State. In that letter, we urged HHS to reinstate grants for programs in good standing or provide another administrative remedy to prevent further disruption of evidence-based services.

Since then, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia issued a preliminary injunction preventing HHS from implementing its new TPP policy and the FY2026 funding opportunities developed under that policy. We understand that with the new policy and NOFOs blocked, there is currently no operative funding opportunity through which HHS can make FY2026 awards.

While the court has suspended the September 30 expiration of the FY2026 TPP funds while the case proceeds, grantees still need access to those funds to sustain their operations and serve their communities. Congress appropriated this funding to support effective prevention services for young people. Allowing it to remain undistributed would undermine congressional intent, waste prior federal investments, and further disrupt services in the communities Congress intended these funds to reach.

Given the ongoing disruption to services and the absence of an operative funding opportunity, we urge HHS to take the most straightforward pathway available by restoring the previously terminated grants and releasing FY2026 funding through the existing awards. These grantees were selected through competitive processes, established programs and community partnerships around federally approved awards, and were in good standing when their grants were terminated. Restoration would allow HHS to obligate the funds promptly in light of the prohibited development and implementation of another funding process.

Immediate restoration would also prevent further disruption to evidence-based services across New York. The terminated Tier 1 grants in New York provided more than \$4.3 million annually

and collectively served approximately 19,000 young people each year. Grantees worked through schools, public health agencies, community-based organizations, and youth-serving providers to deliver medically accurate, age-appropriate, and evidence-based programming responsive to local needs.

We are also concerned by questions raised by the court regarding evidence cited in support of HHS's new TPP policy. The court identified references to public health studies that appeared either not to exist or not to support the propositions for which they were cited. Decisions affecting congressionally appropriated funds and established public health programs should be based on credible evidence, accurate information, and appropriate review by agency officials.

Accordingly, we urge HHS to immediately restore the terminated TPP grants for programs in good standing and obligate the corresponding FY2026 funds through the existing awards. We also request that the Department provide Congress and affected grantees with a written plan and timeline for obligating the full appropriation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

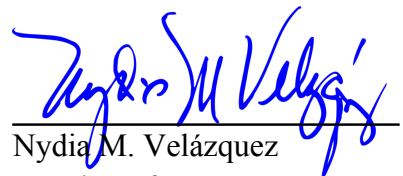
Sincerely,



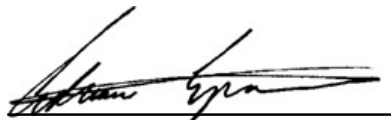
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



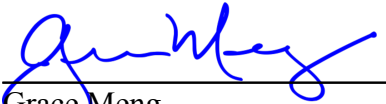
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



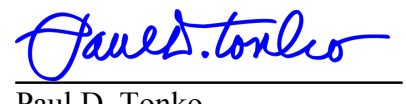
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



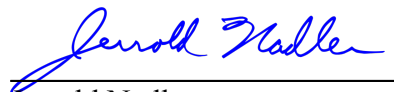
Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress