

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 15, 2026

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

The Honorable Admiral Brian Christine, M.D.
Assistant Secretary for Health
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy and Assistant Secretary Christine,

I write regarding your recent action to terminate Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program grants awarded to Pennsylvania organizations, including Family Health Council of Central Pennsylvania (FHCCP) and AccessMatters. This sudden grant cancellation will significantly impact Pennsylvania communities, and I urge the Department to reconsider its decision.

TPP grants enable FHCCP and AccessMatters to provide evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention and sexual health education to more than 11,000 Pennsylvanians each year. FHCCP provides services to communities across a 24-county region in central Pennsylvania, while AccessMatters provides programming throughout the Philadelphia region. These organizations are long time TPP program participants and have longstanding partnerships with schools, health care providers, and community organizations across the Commonwealth.

On June 26, 2026, both organizations were notified that their grants were terminated effective immediately. I am particularly concerned that these grants were cancelled in the middle of their five-year project periods. These organizations made hiring decisions, trained educators, entered formal agreements with community partners, and made long-term investments to carry out this federally-funded work.

The termination letters state the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) determined certain curricula do not align with the Department's program priorities related to sexually explicit content for minors. Both FHCCP and AccessMatters maintain their curricula are evidence-based, age-appropriate, and have been proven to reduce adolescent risk behaviors. The organizations also note previous approval of the same curricula by HHS's continuation grant review process months before the Department terminated these awards.

Given the significant impact of these decisions on communities across Pennsylvania, I would appreciate additional information about the Department's decision-making process. Specifically:

1. What criteria did HHS use to determine that the organizations' curricula no longer met the Department's program priorities? Please provide a policy memorandum or guidance documents utilized by HHS in this decision-making process.
2. Were FHCCP, AccessMatters, or other affected grantees given the opportunity to respond to the Department's concerns or modify their programming before their grants were terminated?

- a. Does HHS intend to provide affected grantees with an opportunity for reconsideration or further review of these determinations?
3. Why did the Department choose to terminate existing awards during active five-year project periods rather than apply its revised priorities to future funding opportunities?
4. How does HHS intend to minimize disruptions to the thousands of Pennsylvanians who rely on services supported by these grants?
 - a. Does HHS plan to provide any guidance or transition assistance to affected grantees?

I urge the Department to reconsider its grant terminations, and I respectfully request a response to these questions by July 29, 2026. Feel free to contact my office at (202) 224-4254 if you have any questions, comments, or concerns. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Fetterman', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning and a horizontal line extending to the right.

John Fetterman
United States Senator