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ELECTRONIC MAIL

Michael S. Marquis
FOIA Officer / Director, Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts Division
Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Suite 729H
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201
foiarequest@psc.hhs.gov

Re: Freedom of Information Act Records Request

Dear Mr. Marquis:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”), 5 U.S.C. § 552 *et seq.*, and the Department of Health and Human Services FOIA regulations at 45 C.F.R. Part 5, Democracy Forward Foundation makes the following request for records.

Democracy Forward Foundation requests that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services produce the following within twenty (20) business days:

- (1) A copy of letters issued between June 1, 2017 and August 14, 2017 in which HHS provided notification to grantees of the immediate and/or early termination in 2018 of Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program (TPP) five year grants.
- (2) Any records addressing the early and/or immediate termination of TPP grants generated between January 20, 2017 and August 14, 2017.
- (3) Any records relating to the use or reprogramming of unexpended funding initially designated for the TPP grants between January 20, 2017 and August 14, 2017. Search terms should include “abstinence.”
- (4) Any records related to the relevant HHS legal authority for the early or immediate termination of TPP grants between January 20, 2017 and August 14, 2017.

- (5) All records that constitute any appointment calendar maintained by Ms. Valerie Huber or on Ms. Valerie Hubers' behalf, from the date she began serving as a Department of Health and Human Services employee until August 14, 2017.

For purposes of this records request the word "termination" is used to mean termination, discontinuation, shortening, and/or any decision or determination made not to further fund either immediately or prior to the end of the five year period of the grant award.

Records should be searched in the following offices: Office of the Secretary (including the Office of the Deputy Secretary and Chief of Staff), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health (to include the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Health and the Office of Adolescent Health), the Office of the General Counsel, and the Division of Grants. For speed of processing, a rolling release of records is requested.

Please search for records regardless of format, including paper records, electronic records, audiotapes, videotapes, photographs, data, and graphical materials. This request includes, without limitation, all correspondence, letters, emails, text messages, calendar entries, facsimiles, telephone messages, voice mail messages, and transcripts, notes, minutes, or audio or video recordings of any meetings, telephone conversations, or discussions.

FOIA requires agencies to disclose information, with only limited exceptions for information that would harm an interest protected by a specific exemption or where disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(8)(A). In the event that any of the requested documents cannot be disclosed in their entirety, we request that you release any material that can be reasonably segregated. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). Should any documents or portions of documents be withheld, we further request that you state with specificity the description of the document to be withheld and the legal and factual grounds for withholding any documents or portions thereof in an index as required by *Vaughn v. Rosen*, 484 F.2d 820 (D.C. Cir. 1973). Should any document include both disclosable and non-disclosable material that cannot reasonably be segregated, we request that you describe what proportion of the information in a document is non-disclosable and how that information is dispersed throughout the document. *Mead Data Cent., Inc. v. U.S. Dep't of Air Force*, 566 F.2d 242, 261 (D.C. Cir. 1977).

If requested records are located in, or originated in, another agency, department, office, installation or bureau, please refer this request or any relevant portion of this request to the appropriate entity.

To the extent that the records are readily reproducible in an electronic format, we would prefer to receive the records in that format. However, if certain records are not available in that format, we are willing to accept the best available copy of each such record.

Please respond to this request in writing within 20 working days as required under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). If all of the requested documents are not available within that time period, we request that you provide us with all requested documents or portions of documents that are available within that time period. If all relevant records are not produced within that time period,

we are entitled to a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(viii)(I).

Democracy Forward Foundation is a nonprofit organization organized under Internal Revenue Code § 501(c)(3) and dedicated to educating the public about the operation of the federal government. The records we obtain from this request will be used to support those public education efforts, and we intend to disseminate publicly an analysis of those records. As a nonprofit organization, we do not have a commercial interest in the records. We therefore request a waiver of fees for searching and duplicating records in response to this request under the exception at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii), which requires waiver of fees if the disclosure is “in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.” If our request for a waiver is denied, we are willing to pay all reasonable fees incurred for searching and duplicating records in responding to this request, up to \$250. If the costs of responding to this request should exceed that amount, please contact us before incurring costs exceeding that amount.

If you need clarification as to the scope of the request, have any questions, or foresee any obstacles to releasing fully the requested records within the 20 day period, please contact Karianne Jones as soon as possible at foia@democracyforward.org or 202-448-9090.

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

/s/ Skye Perryman

Skye Perryman
Democracy Forward Foundation