



City of Alexandria, Virginia
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



Alyia Gaskins
Mayor

Office: 703.746.4500
alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov

May 15, 2025

The Honorable Mark Warner United States Senate
703 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tim Kaine United States Senate
231 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Donald S. Beyer, Jr. United States House of Representatives 1119 Longworth
House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Honorable Senator Warner, Senator Kaine, and Congressman Beyer:

I urge your support in preserving competitive funding through the Department of Health and Human Services' Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP), which enables the Alexandria Campaign on Adolescent Pregnancy (ACAP) to provide evidence-based sexuality education and essential life skills to youth in Alexandria.

Since 2012, ACAP has received competitive funding from HHS's Personal Responsibility Education Program (PREP) to provide Alexandria youth with life skills they need to choose abstinence while they are in school, delay sexual intercourse, make positive social decisions, support their mental health, and build healthy relationships (both social and romantic). ACAP uses local data to target our city's most impacted youth with the education and services they need. For over a decade, ACAP has delivered effective programming that:

- Served over 16,000 students since 2012
- Reached 95% of middle school students before sexual activity begins.
- Increased knowledge about STI/HIV testing by 24 percentage points.
- Improved youth life skills in emotional regulation, decision-making, resisting peer pressure, and understanding healthy relationships.
- Funded Peer Advocates in all four middle schools to deliver after-school education.

In fall 2024, ACAP was awarded a new three-year grant of \$709,990 per year to continue this important work. The draft FY 2026 federal budget proposal eliminates PREP funding, jeopardizing this critical, competitively awarded investment. If PREP is eliminated, Alexandria will lose 2 city staff, 2 grant partners, 2 hourly staff, and 10 peer advocates responsible for:



City of Alexandria, Virginia
301 King Street, Suite 2300
Alexandria, Virginia 22314



Alyia Gaskins
Mayor

Office: 703.746.4500
alyia.gaskins@alexandriava.gov

- Programs serving youth at highest risk, including pregnant/parenting teens and those needing mental health support
- Peer education, family life education, and community-based programming from Tenants and Workers United, Capital Youth Empowerment Program, and YHelp
- Youth-designed forums addressing sex education, mental health, and safe spaces
- Events and safe spaces that connect teens with trusted adults
- Education and support for over 5,000 youth

ACAP is one of only two PREP-funded programs in Virginia. Any loss of funding would not only dismantle essential youth services in Alexandria but also affect our state's standing in youth health education and prevention efforts.

I welcome the opportunity to answer questions or connect you with youth and staff who can speak to the critical impact of this funding. Your advocacy can help preserve these vital programs and safeguard the future of Alexandria's youth. Thank you for all you do for our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alyia Gaskins".

Alyia Gaskins
Mayor
City of Alexandria