



March 29, 2018

Freedom of Information Officer
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 729H
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C., 20201

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request

Dear FOIA Officer(s):

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), Equity Forward requests access to and copies of all records reflecting correspondence between the following HHS officials and any employees or representatives of the following organizations/office between:

HHS Officials:

1. Valerie Huber, Chief of Staff for the Assistant Secretary of Health, from May 1, 2017 until the fulfillment of this request.
2. Teresa Manning, OPA Former Deputy Assistant Secretary, from January 20, 2017 until January 16, 2018.
3. Steven Valentine, Deputy Chief of Staff for the Assistant Secretary of Health, from January 22, 2017 until the fulfillment of this request.

Organizations/Offices:

1. Americans United for Life (for example, email addresses ending in @aul.org)
2. Susan B. Anthony List (for example, email addresses ending in @sba-list.org)
3. Charlotte Lozier Institute (for example, email addresses ending in @lozierinstitute.org)
4. Billy Valentine
5. Steven Valentine Sr.
6. Any representatives of the office of Rep. Chris Smith
7. Any representatives of the office of Rep. Vicky Hartzler
8. Any representatives of the office of Rep. Dan Lipinski

"Correspondence" should include but not be limited to copies of emails between these individuals (including carbon copying "CC" and any relevant attachments), and any

correspondence between these individuals via messaging platform(s), including but not limited to Google Hangouts (Gchat), Slack, Lync and Signal.

Fee Waiver Request

Equity Forward requests a waiver of fees because disclosure of the requested information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester. The disclosure of the information sought under this request will document and reveal the operations of the government, including how public funds are spent and how officials conduct the public's business.

On March 20, 2018, NBC News reported that specific political appointees within the Department of Health and Human Services led the process to end the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, which has been credited with "helping to bring the nation's teen pregnancy rate to an all-time low." ¹ In addition to the NBC News Reports on the TPPP, In February 2018 the Trump administration was sued over its decision to end the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program. Both sources demonstrate a clear public interest in the individuals and discussions involved with the programs elimination. ²

This request is for non-commercial purposes. As a project of a 501(c)(3) organization, Equity Forward does not have a commercial purpose, and the release of the information requested is not in Equity Forward's financial interest. Equity Forward will use the information gathered through this request to educate the public through reports, press releases, or other media. Accordingly, Equity Forward qualifies for a fee waiver.

Conclusion

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the law. Additionally, if any documents are withheld based on the Department's interpretation of any exemption, I request that you provide an index of all denied documents.

If possible, I would prefer to receive this information electronically via e-mail at macarter@equityfwd.org. If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to call me at (678) 827-1731.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

¹ *Notes, emails reveal Trump appointees' war to end HHS teen pregnancy program*, NBC News, [3/20/18](#)

² *Nine organizations sue Trump administration for ending grants to teen pregnancy programs*, Washington Post, [2/15/18](#)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary Alice Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and last name "Carter" being the most legible parts.

Mary Alice Carter
Executive Director, Equity Forward