

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4312

January 8, 2025

Dr. Allan Cole
Dean, Steve Hicks School of Social Work
405 W. 25th Street STOP D3510
Austin, TX 78705

Dear Dr. Cole,

I am writing today with concerns regarding a grant the University of Texas (UT) received from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and a sub-award UT provided to Planned Parenthood.

In August 2023, HHS gave the Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing at the Steve Hicks School of Social Work a \$2 million grant to evaluate THRIVE – a program that provides “inclusive, trauma-informed sex education to youth, designed to meet the specific needs and concerns of teens and young adults in foster care.”¹ As part of the THRIVE project, the Texas Institute for Child & Family Wellbeing partnered with implementation and evaluation teams in Illinois, Kansas, and Colorado to conduct an efficacy study of the program. After receiving \$526,145 of the \$2 million allotted by HHS, the university has sub-awarded a total of \$49,458 to the Planned Parenthood of Illinois since September 15, 2023.²

Planned Parenthood of Illinois is a radical entity and the University of Texas’ association with it violates the conscience of millions of Texans. On its website, Planned Parenthood of Illinois proudly boasts of providing free abortions and “gender-affirming hormone therapy to transgender, nonbinary, and gender-expansive folks” – including minors.³ Despite Planned Parenthood receiving over a third of its revenue from taxpayer funding, they provide services “regardless of immigration status” and “travel arrangements for those seeking gender-affirming or abortion care from other states.”⁴

Considering that the University of Texas is second in the nation in federal research expenditures among public higher education systems, it is essential that we understand why federal grant recipients are entering into partnerships with abortion and so-called “gender-affirming care”-providing organizations and under what circumstances.⁵ Therefore, we request information from

¹ <https://tfyhi.socialwork.utexas.edu/thrive/>

² https://www.usaspending.gov/award/ASST_NON_TP2AH000095_7521/

³ <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-illinois/patient-resources/gender-affirming-hormone-therapy>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ <https://onestop.utexas.edu/managing-costs/cost-tuition-rates/learn-more-about-tuition/sources-of-revenue/>

you regarding the interactions and agreements between the University of Texas and Planned Parenthood under your leadership.

To assist in our oversight, please respond to the following inquiries as soon as possible, but no later than 5:00 p.m. on January 22, 2025.

1. Please confirm whether UT provided Planned Parenthood of Illinois sub-award grant funding. If so, please provide documentation of the amount provided to date and the rationale for providing the funding to Planned Parenthood of Illinois.
2. Since January 2021, has the University of Texas entered into any other funding agreements with Planned Parenthood or other abortion providers? If so, please provide copies of those agreements or confirmation that no other such agreements have been or are in effect. Please explain the circumstances and discussions that precipitated UT's agreement with these organizations.
3. Is UT's provision of funds to Planned Parenthood of Illinois consistent with Texas law, including [Senate Bill 14](#), which prohibits the use of public money or public assistance to provide minors with gender-affirming procedures and treatments?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chip Roy". The signature is stylized with a large, looping "C" and "R".

Chip Roy
Member of Congress