



Sexuality Education for Life Minnesota Coalition (SEFL) May 2006 E-Newsletter

Sexuality Education for Life Minnesota is a coalition of educational, religious, health, social service and advocacy organizations, as well as concerned individuals that promotes lifelong healthy sexuality by advocating for policies on comprehensive sexuality education and access to confidential health care services.

2006 Legislative Session Comes to an End

The 2006 legislative session came to an end late Sunday, May 21, 2006. In the end, the comprehensive sexuality education section of the Senate Education Omnibus bill [SF2994](#), was removed from the bill. The good news is that there were no formal attempts to add abstinence-only language to the bill or to change the minors' consent law. Thanks to all of the Sexuality Education For Life Coalition members who provided education and advocacy to legislators throughout the session. Hopefully, 2007 will be our year to get the comprehensive sexuality education bill passed!

In the next few months, legislators will be working on their re-election campaigns in what will be an exciting election. Please keep these questions handy as candidates ask for your support this November 7!



Responsible Sex Education

1. Would you fund abstinence-only-until-marriage programs that have *never* been proven effective in reducing the rates of teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections and HIV?
2. Do you support the teaching of responsible, age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education, including information about both abstinence and contraception in public schools in Minnesota?
3. Would you support a comprehensive sexual health education bill that includes offering both abstinence and contraception as ways to prevent pregnancy?

Health Services for Minors

1. Do you support minors' access to confidential health services including testing for sexually transmitted infections, access to contraception, drug and alcohol counseling and certain mental health services?

In the News

Wisconsin Passes Abstinence-Only Education Bill.

<http://www.startribune.com/1244/story/451249.html>

Groups With Differing Views on Sexual Health Release Report Defining Best Practices for Research

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=37388

Member of Congress Influenced Change in CDC Conference Panel on STIs, Abstinence Education, Organizers Say

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=37102

More Than Half of Teens Who Sign Abstinence Pledges Do Not Remain Committed, Study Says

http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=37104

Resources

The Impact of Sex and HIV Education Programs in Schools and Communities on Sexual Behaviors among Young Adults

[Now available on the Healthy Teen Network website](#), this report by Douglas Kirby, B.A. Laris and Lori Roller addresses the effects of sex and HIV education programs, characteristics of effective programs and implications for policy and practice.

Eighth Annual European Study Tour

Advocates for Youth and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte are sponsoring the eighth European study tour, October 20-November 6, 2006. Apply now to travel to Netherlands, France and Germany to identify strategies, programs and policies that have positively influenced adolescent sexual behavior and outcomes in these countries. For more information and to download the application, please visit www.advocatesforyouth.org

A Note from Leah

I will be leaving MOAPPP at the end of May to begin a new job with Stop it Now! Minnesota. I feel honored to have worked with MOAPPP and this fabulous coalition of smart and dedicated people. Even though I will be in a different position, I look forward to continuing to be a part of this coalition and advocating for realistic, sexuality education and continued access to confidential care for young people.

Sexuality Education for Life-Minnesota is a coalition of educational, religious, health, social service and advocacy organizations, as well as concerned individuals that promotes lifelong healthy sexuality by advocating for policies on comprehensive sexuality education and access to confidential health care services. Sexuality Education for Life-Minnesota is coordinated by the Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPP) www.moappp.org and the Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP) www.mnaidsproject.org.

Sex Ed for Life is supported by the Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation, the Minneapolis Foundation and the Ms. Foundation.

For more information on the Sexuality Education for Life Coalition, go to www.SexEdforLife.org. Please feel free to forward to others interested in supporting the health of Minnesota youth or tell them to sign up for Sex Ed for Life at www.SexEdforLife.org.

To unsubscribe from Sex Ed for Life, email Leah@moapp.org, Subject line: unsubscribe Sex Ed for Life