

March 23, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on LHHS
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on LHHS
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Cole and Blunt:

We write to express our appreciation for the improvements to sex education policy you accomplished in FY 2016 and to encourage you to continue this good work in the FY 2017 spending bill.

In particular, we appreciate that you made these changes:

- Renamed the Competitive Abstinence Education (CAE) program to the Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) program.
- Inserted key concepts from the *Healthy Relationships Act* to serve as the legislative definition for SRA education.
- Doubled funding for this program without making similar increases to the President's Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program.

This year, we urge you to maintain the important and vital policy improvements made in the FY 2016 final spending bill and build upon these improvements by giving communities an equal choice in sex education options. Toward this end, you set an important precedent in the LHHS bill by including funding parity between the SRA and the TPP Programs. We hope you will work to make this a binding part of federal sex education funding.

When President Obama sent his first budget to Congress, he slashed \$100+ million in SRA funding. Those funds were then used to begin the explicit Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program. We ask that you work hard to restore these funds for SRA education.

SRA programs work. More youth are waiting to have sex and they are escaping poverty as a result. SRA educators empower students to avoid sex, and focus on their education, so that they can increase their chances of being self sufficient, successful adults who build healthy families in the future. We hope we can count on your support for SRA education, and the vulnerable youth who depend on these programs for a more promising future.

Respectfully,

American College of Pediatricians
Michelle Cretella, MD – President
Quentin Van Meter, MD – Vice President

American Values
Gary L. Bauer – President

Ascend (Formerly NAEA)
Valerie Huber - President/CEO

Care Net
Roland C. Warren – President/CEO

Christian Medical Association
David Stevens, MD, MA (Ethics) – CEO

CitizenLink
Paul Weber – President/CEO

Citizens for Community Values
Phil Burress – President

Concerned Women for America
Legislative Action
Penny Nance – CEO and President

Family Research Council
David Christensen – VP for Government Affairs

Institute for Youth Development
Shepherd Smith - President

March for Life Education and Defense Fund
Jeanne Mancini – President

Medical institute for Sexual Health
Freda Bush, MD – President/CEO

Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
Russell Moore – President

Students for Life
Kristan Hawkins – President

V5 Initiative
Cristina Vollmer de Burelli-
Executive Director

Alaska Family Action
Jim Minnery – President

Center for Arizona Policy
Cathi Herrod – President

Colorado Family Action
Debra Chaves – Executive Director

Cornerstone Family Council
Julie Lynde – Executive Director

Delaware Family Policy Council
Nicole Theis – President

Family Heritage Alliance
Dale Bartscher – Executive Director

Family Policy Alliance of Kansas
Steve Brunk – Executive Director

Family Policy Institute of Washington
Joseph Backholm – Executive Director

Hawaii Family Advocates
James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr. – President

Hawaii Family Forum
Eva Andrade - President

Indiana Family Institute
Curt Smith – President

Louisiana Family Forum
Gene Mills – President

Minnesota Family Council
John Helmberger – CEO

Nebraska Family Alliance
Al Riskowski – Executive Director

New Jersey Family Policy Council
Len Deo – Founder & President

New Yorker's Family Research Foundation
Rev. Jason J. McGuire – Executive Director

North Carolina Family Policy Council
John L. Rustin – President

North Dakota Family Alliance
Tom Freier – Executive Director

*Pennsylvania Family Council
Michael Greer - President*

*The Family Foundation of Virginia
Victoria Cobb - President*

*The Family Foundation of Kentucky
Kent Ostrander – Executive Director*

*The Family Leader
Bob Vander Plaats – President/CEO*

*Wisconsin Family Action
Julaine K. Appling - President*