

The Honorable XXX
Attn: XXX
ADDR1
City, State Zip

30 August 2006

Dear Senator XXX,

As organizations committed to sound science and the health and welfare of our nation's youth, we wish to express our appreciation for your vote on July 25, 2006 in favor of the amendment offered by Senators Frank Lautenberg and Robert Menendez during debate on the Child Custody Protection Act. By voting in favor of the amendment, a measure that would have invested in important programs like comprehensive sexuality education and teen pregnancy prevention initiatives, you took an important and courageous stand in support of young people's access to comprehensive information and education about sex and sexuality. **We hope that you will build upon this remarkable vote and continue to stand for a REAL approach to educating young people by becoming a cosponsor of the Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act (S. 368).**

The REAL Act is about promoting responsible choice and REAL prevention. It would provide a dedicated federal funding stream for comprehensive sexuality education where one does not currently exist. This year, however, the federal government will spend \$176 million of taxpayers' money on abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, despite the fact that these programs are shown to be, at best, ineffective, and, at worst, harmful to young people. The evidence stands with you in your support for comprehensive sexuality education. Comprehensive programs about sexuality—medically accurate, age-appropriate education that includes information about both abstinence *and* contraception—have been found to be effective in helping teens delay the onset of sexual intercourse, and, when they become sexually active, reducing the number of sexual partners and increasing contraception and condom use. In short, young people who receive comprehensive information about sex and sexuality are more likely to make healthy, responsible decisions.

In addition, all evidence suggests that comprehensive sexuality education is a mainstream American value. A vast majority of Americans support comprehensive sexuality education and believe young people should be given information about how to protect themselves from unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). Over 90 percent of parents polled want sexuality education to be part of school curriculum and want this education to include information about both abstinence and contraception. In addition, recent polling found that approximately 70 percent of parents believe that federal government funding "should be used to fund more comprehensive sex education programs that include information on how to obtain and use condoms and other contraceptives" instead of funding programs that have "abstaining from sexual activity" as their only purpose. Moreover, more than 6 in 10 voters would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports comprehensive sexuality education.

As Senator Lautenberg said during debate on the amendment, "when it comes to our children, we should do everything within our power to protect them. We can and we must help America's young people to do better, to make better choices and have brighter futures." Your cosponsorship of the REAL Act would bring us one step closer to fulfilling this commitment.

To cosponsor the REAL Act or for more information, please contact Rebecca Mandell in Senator Frank Lautenberg's (D-NJ) office at 224-3224, Jen Heitel Yakush with SIECUS' Public Policy office at 202-265-2405, or Sonya Clay with Advocates for Youth at 202-419-3420.

Sincerely,

The Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Coalition of North Carolina
Advocates for Youth
AIDS Action
AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth and Families
The AIDS Institute
AIDS Project Los Angeles (CA)
AIDS Resource Alliance, Inc. (Williamsport, PA)
AIDS Services of Dallas (TX)
Alliance Medical Center (Healdsburg, CA)
American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, & Therapists (AASECT)
American Public Health Association
Americans for Religious Liberty
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
Backline
Boone County Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Task Force (IA)
Boston AIDS Consortium, Inc. (MA)
Business and Professional Women/Arizona
Catholics for a Free Choice
Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
Center for Reproductive Rights
Coalition for Positive Sexuality
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)
DC Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
Disciples for Choice
Disciples Justice Action Network
Equal Partners in Faith
Equality North Carolina
Family Health Council of Central Pennsylvania, Inc.
Family Planning Advocates of New York State
Family Planning Association of Maine
Family Planning Association of Northeast Ohio, Inc.
Family Planning Council (Philadelphia, PA)
Feminist Caucus of the American Humanist Association
Feminist Majority
Feminist Women's Health Center - Cedar River Clinics (Tacoma, Renton, Yakima, WA)

Florida Association of Planned Parenthood Affiliates
FutureNet (IA)
Gay Men's Health Crisis
Georgia Parents for Responsible Health Education
GLSEN - the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network
Guttmacher Institute
Healthy Teen Network
HIV Law Project, Inc.
HIV Medicine Association
Human Rights Campaign
Hyacinth AIDS Foundation (New Brunswick, NJ)
Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
International Women's Health Coalition
L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center (CA)
Law Students for Choice, Georgetown University Law Center
Legal Momentum
Lifelong AIDS Alliance
Living Room, Inc.
The Margaret Hudson Program, Inc. (Tulsa, OK)
Mary Wohlford Foundation
Massachusetts Alliance on Teen Pregnancy
Massachusetts Asian and Pacific Islanders (MAP) for Health
Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting
Ms. Foundation for Women
NARAL Pro-Choice America
Nashville CARES (TN)
National Abortion Federation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO)
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)
National Association of Social Workers
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Women's Organizations
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Minority AIDS Council
National Organization for Women
The National Partnership for Women & Families
New Jersey Chapter, Sierra Club
New Morning Foundation
Our Bodies Ourselves

Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) National
Pennsylvania Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy
People For the American Way
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Planned Parenthood Association of Bucks County, PA
Planned Parenthood Health Systems
Planned Parenthood of Central Pennsylvania
Planned Parenthood of Chester County
Planned Parenthood of New York City
Planned Parenthood of South Central New York, Inc.
Planned Parenthood of the Susquehanna Valley (PA)
Planned Parenthood Pennsylvania Advocates
Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania
Population Connection
Pro-Choice Public Education Project (PEP)
Program for the Study of Sexuality, Gender, Health and Human Rights (New York, NY)
Protestants for the Common Good
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Religious Institute on Sexual Morality, Justice, and Healing
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
Republican Majority for Choice
Response Center (Skokie, IL)
San Francisco AIDS Foundation (CA)
SERT* (Sexuality Education Resource and Training)
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
Sierra Club
The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality
Tarzana Treatment Centers, Inc. (CA)
TII CANN - Title II Community AIDS National Network
Tri-State Alliance for Gays & Lesbians (Evansville, IN)
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations
United Church of Christ - Justice and Witness Ministries
Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood (NY)
Voices for Planned Parenthood, University of Puget Sound (Tacoma, WA)
West Virginia Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health
Wolfeboro Pediatrics (Wolfeboro, NH)
Women of Reform Judaism
Women's Coalition South Bay (Redondo Beach, CA)
The Woodhull Freedom Federation
YWCA of Topeka (KS)
YWCA USA

