

**Refuse Federal Funding for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs
From the New York County Chapter of the NYSAFP**

WHEREAS the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Policy on Adolescent Health Care, Sexuality and Contraception states the AAFP “ is concerned about the sexual health of adolescents in the United States, particularly in regard to the high incidence of teenage pregnancies, the high rate of sexually transmitted diseases and the lack of effective sex education programs,”¹ and

WHEREAS the AAFP Congress of Delegates passed Resolution 405 in 2005 and updated this policy to state, in addition, that “The AAFP believes that an evidence-based, comprehensive approach to sexuality education will be effective in reducing unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases,”¹ and

WHEREAS Resolution 405 also updated Recommendation A of the AAFP Policy on Adolescent Health Care, Sexuality and Contraception to state that the AAFP “defines effective sexuality education, pregnancy prevention and sexually transmitted disease prevention programs as those using a comprehensive approach to sexuality education that includes medically accurate information on contraception and abstinence,”¹ and

WHEREAS Recommendation G of the AAFP Policy on Adolescent Health Care, Sexuality and Contraception states that family physicians should be “actively involved in community efforts in initiating and implementing effective education and prevention programs for unintended teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. The AAFP supports health education programs in the elementary to high schools to include age appropriate sex education,”¹ and

WHEREAS a 2007 study of federally funded abstinence programs, commissioned by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, concluded that participating youth “were no more likely than control group youth to have abstained from sex” and “had similar numbers of sexual partners and had initiated sex at the same mean age,”² and

WHEREAS the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), American Medical Association (AMA), Society for Adolescent Medicine (SAM) and American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) have official policy statements urging schools to implement comprehensive sexuality education programs and/or criticizing abstinence-only programs as inaccurate and ineffective,^{3,4,5,6,7} and the AAP states “abstinence-only programs have not demonstrated successful outcomes with regard to delayed initiation of sexual activity or safer sex practices,”⁵ and

WHEREAS for fiscal year 2008 the expected level of federal funding for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs via three funding streams—Title V of the Social Security Act, Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) and the Adolescent Family Life Act (AFL)—is \$204 million,⁸ a \$28 million increase from last year,⁹ and

WHEREAS in 2007 New York became one of 17 states¹⁰ to reject the funds offered by Title V for funding abstinence-only-until-marriage programs,¹¹ but still has nine programs funded by CBAE and six funded by AFL which received \$6.9 million in 2006,¹² and

WHEREAS at least one program funded through CBAE in New York¹² supports crisis pregnancy centers, which provide misinformation to women seeking counsel about unintended pregnancy, now therefore be it

RESOLVED the NYSAFP use its lobbyists in Albany to advocate for New York State to refuse future funding from all funding streams for abstinence-only-until-marriage programs, and further be it

RESOLVED that the NYSAFP use its lobbyists to encourage the New York State Senate to pass the Healthy Teens Act, which was passed by the State Assembly in May 2007¹³ and would establish funding for comprehensive sex education, and further be it

RESOLVED that the NYSAFP asks the AAFP to draft a letter opposing all federal funding of abstinence-only-until-marriage programs to be sent to the Administration for Children, Youth and Families, which oversees the CBAE and Title V programs, and the Office of Population Affairs, which oversees AFL, and further be it

RESOLVED that the NYSAFP Congress instruct its delegates to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) to introduce this resolution at the AAFP Congress in San Diego in September 2008.

¹ American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) Statement of Policy on Adolescent Health Care, Sexuality, and Contraception. Updated 2006.
<http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/policy/policies/a/adol3.html>

² Trenholm, Christopher et al. April 2007. Impacts of four title v section 510 abstinence education programs. <http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/pdfs/impactabstinence.pdf>

³ Policy Statement, Sexuality Education for Children and Adolescents, AAP, 2001.
<http://www.aap.org/policy/0068.html>

⁴ Policy Statement, Sexuality Education, Abstinence, and Distribution of Condoms in Schools, AMA, 1999.
http://www.ama-assn.org/apps/pf_online/pf_online?f_n=browse&doc=policyfiles/HOD/H-170.968.HTM

⁵ Society for Adolescent Medicine. Position Statements on Reproductive Health Care for Adolescents: Sex Education. Available at: http://www.adolescenthealth.org/reproductive_health_.htm#position

⁶ American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Statement of Policy, Statement on Sexuality Education (July 1996).

⁷ ACOG Statement of Policy, The Limitations of Abstinence-Only Sexuality Education (May 1998).

⁸ SIECUS Chart: Spending for Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs (1982-2008)
<http://nomoremoney.org/historyChart.html>

⁹ SIECUS policy update July 2007 House passes labor, health and human services, and education spending bill <http://www.siecus.org/policy/PUupdates/pdate0341.html>

¹⁰ Stein, Rob. Dec. 16 2007. Abstinence programs face rejection: more states opt to turn down the federal money attached to that kind of sex ed. *Washington Post*. accessed online at http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/15/AR2007121500773_pf.html. Other states include: California, Ohio, Virginia, Maine, Colorado, New Jersey, New York, Wisconsin, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Mexico, Montana, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Iowa.

¹¹ SIECUS Policy Update September 2007 New York Rejects Title V Federal Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Funding <http://www.siecus.org/policy/PUupdates/pdate0353.html>

¹² SIECUS New York State Profile. <http://www.siecus.org/policy/states/2006/mandates/NY.html>

¹³ Healthy teens act one step closer to becoming law. May 8 2007. Press Release.
<http://getthefactsny.org/media/documents/PR-SenateHealthCom.pdf>