

Put Prevention First

SUPPORT FDA-Approved Methods of Contraception in Family Life Education

HB 1403 Delegate McClellan and SB 155 Senator McEachin

The Problem: Virginia's Family Life Education Guidelines include learning objectives about abstinence, contraception and disease prevention. However, the Code of Virginia includes abstinence and disease prevention and excludes information about FDA-approved methods of contraception.

- Section §22.1-207.1 of the Code of Virginia directs the Board of Education to develop Family Life Education Guidelines for a comprehensive, sequential family life education curriculum in grades K through 12.
- The Guidelines were developed with input from public school staff (including administrators and teachers), state agencies, parent groups, and not-for-profit organizations that provide family life services.

The Solution: Amend §22.1-207.1 of the Code of Virginia to reflect the Guidelines established by the Board of Education to include *the use of FDA approved methods of contraception to prevent unintended pregnancy*, along with abstinence and disease prevention.

Only comprehensive, medically accurate Family Life Education allows for responsible decision-making and pregnancy prevention.

- In Virginia, 72 out of 1000 girls become pregnant before they reach the age of 20.¹
- Research shows that teaching both abstinence and contraception does not encourage or increase sexual activity.²
- Teens who receive comprehensive sexuality education that includes discussion of abstinence *and* contraception are more likely than those who receive abstinence-only messages to delay sexual activity and to use contraceptives when they do become sexually active.³

Parents, teachers, teens and health care providers support comprehensive family life education.

- More than eight out of ten Americans believe that young people should have information about protecting themselves from unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.⁴
- Over 90% of teachers believe that students should be taught about contraception and one in five teachers believe they are not meeting their students' needs for information.⁵
- The American Medical Association (AMA), the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), the American Public Health Association (APHA), and the Society of Adolescent Medicine (SAM), support responsible sexuality education that includes information about both abstinence and contraception.

¹ Guttmacher Institute, http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/fb_sexED2006.HTM

² Kirby D (2001) *Emerging Answers: Research Findings on Programs to Reduce Teen Pregnancy* Washington, DC National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy

³ National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, 2001.

⁴ NPR/Kaiser/ Harvard/ 2004 Poll Sex Education in America

⁵ Darroch JE et al, Changing emphases in sexuality education in U.S. public secondary schools, 1988-1999, *Family Planning Perspectives*, 2000, 32(5):204-211 & 265.

Virginia Pro-Choice Coalition

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