

# Put Prevention First

## OPPOSE Family Life Education Provider Restriction<sup>1</sup> HB 1538 Delegate Pogge and SB 542 Senator Obenshain

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**HB 1538 and SB 542** prohibit public schools from permitting Family Life Education materials or instruction from persons or organizations that provide abortions or abortion referrals, which includes the Virginia Department of Health, most hospitals, health clinics and physician's offices, as well as Planned Parenthood. There is also a prohibition against school employees providing information or referrals for abortion.

### **Only medically accurate Family Life Education allows for responsible decision making and disease prevention.**

- Organizations that provide inaccurate information about pregnancy options or fail to refer patients for medical care are not suited to provide medically-accurate Family Life Education.
- Virginia's Family Life Education Guidelines include learning objectives about abstinence, contraception and disease prevention.
- Family Life Educators (non-public school agencies) are required to comply with the rules and limitations in each respective school district, i.e., permission slips, limitations on materials, etc.

### **These bills have broad implications for how local school divisions choose to implement Family Life Education programs.**

- Many school districts work with Public Health Nurses and local health care professionals to implement portions of Family Life Education. This bill would prevent local school districts from incorporating these community resources.<sup>2</sup>
- The Virginia Department of Health provides Family Life Education materials and trainings for local schools districts, as well as referrals for abortion services. In 2006, 158 teachers received Family Life Education training through the Virginia Department of Health.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> As the bills are currently written, the language may limit and/or prohibit an employee's legal right to seek outside employment.

<sup>2</sup> Virginia Board of Education. *Report on Survey of Family Life Education Programs*. Senate Document No. 7, 2007.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*