

Dear Governor Blagojevich:

Reject Title V dollars in Illinois!

Illinois opposes public investment in abstinence-only programs. The health of Illinois youth depends on their ability to make informed, healthy choices. Abstinence-only programs have been found to be insufficient, inaccurate, and ineffective. The abstinence-only experiment has failed.

Sincerely,

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Please keep me updated on this issue! Email: _____

For more information, visit www.ica.org/policy

Dear Illinois Congressional Delegation:

Stop funding CBAE and Title V!

Illinois opposes public investment in abstinence-only programs. The health of Illinois youth depends on their ability to make informed, healthy choices. Abstinence-only programs have been found to be insufficient, inaccurate, and ineffective. The abstinence-only experiment has failed.

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STOP WASTING TAX DOLLARS ON FAILING ABSTINENCE-ONLY PROGRAMS

The health of Illinois youth depends on their ability to make informed, healthy choices. Valuable tax dollars and resources are being wasted on abstinence-only programs that do not protect the health and welfare of Illinois youth. In a time of state budgetary deficits and looming increases in taxes, taxpayers should refuse to foot the bill for programs that fail to protect the health of our youth.

Substantial federal funding for abstinence-only programs came in 1996 with welfare reform legislation, under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act. This bill provided \$250 million in Title V federal funds to states (over a five year period) to support abstinence-only programs. Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) funding was established by Congress in 2000 to further fund abstinence-only. CBAE money has steadily increased over the years, from \$20 million in FY2001 to \$113 million in FY2007. Illinois receives over \$7.5 million in Title V and CBAE.

Sexual education impacts all Illinois taxpayers because of the societal costs associated with teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Nationally, one in four sexually active teens contracts a STI every year, and 50 percent of the nation's new HIV infections occur among people under age 25. In a time of fiscal crises, the State needs to achieve the greatest public benefit for every tax dollar spent, and we need to ensure that teens are adequately educated to make responsible decisions about their health.

The time has come for our elected officials to stop funding these insufficient, inaccurate and ineffective programs. Illinois must join the ranks of 17 other states who have rejected Title V abstinence-only funding and start fully funding sexual health education.

STOP WASTING TAX DOLLARS ON FAILING ABSTINENCE-ONLY PROGRAMS

✓ Abstinence-only programs are ineffective, inaccurate, and insufficient. They deprive students of basic medical information that they will need when they become sexually active, in marriage or otherwise.

✓ Title V and CBAE are federal grant programs used to promote abstinence-only-until-marriage. Title V requires states to match \$3 for every \$4 received from the federal government.

✓ Illinois receives about \$7.5 million in Title V and CBAE dollars.

✓ Since 1996, the U.S. government has spent over \$1.5 billion on ineffective abstinence-only-until-marriage programs.

✓ The Governors of 17 other states have rejected Title V funds, including Wisconsin, Iowa, New Mexico and Virginia.

✓ There are no federal dollars dedicated to comprehensive programs for sexual health education.

✓ Numerous studies and reports indicate that teens who receive comprehensive sex education that includes information about abstinence and birth control, including condoms, are more likely to delay sexual activity, have fewer partners, and use protection when they do become sexually active.

✓ For more information and research on why Illinois must Reject Title V, go to: <http://www.ica.org/policy.html>

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