

March 23, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on LHHS  
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on LHHS  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Cole and Blunt:

We write to express our appreciation for the improvements to sex education policy you accomplished in FY 2016 and to encourage you to continue this good work in the FY 2017 spending bill.

In particular, we appreciate that you made these changes:

- Renamed the Competitive Abstinence Education (CAE) program to the Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) program.
- Inserted key concepts from the *Healthy Relationships Act* to serve as the legislative definition for SRA education.
- Doubled funding for this program without making similar increases to the President's Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program.

This year, we urge you to maintain the important and vital policy improvements made in the FY 2016 final spending bill and build upon these improvements by giving communities an equal choice in sex education options. Toward this end, you set an important precedent in the LHHS bill by including funding parity between the SRA and the TPP Programs. We hope you will work to make this a binding part of federal sex education funding.

When President Obama sent his first budget to Congress, he slashed \$100+ million in SRA funding. Those funds were then used to begin the explicit Teen Pregnancy Prevention (TPP) Program. We ask that you work hard to restore these funds for SRA education.

SRA programs work. More youth are waiting to have sex and they are escaping poverty as a result. SRA educators empower students to avoid sex, and focus on their education, so that they can increase their chances of being self sufficient, successful adults who build healthy families in the future. We hope we can count on your support for SRA education, and the vulnerable youth who depend on these programs for a more promising future.

Respectfully,

American College of Pediatricians  
Michelle Cretella, MD – President  
Quentin Van Meter, MD – Vice President

American Values  
Gary L. Bauer – President

Ascend (Formerly NAEA)  
Valerie Huber - President/CEO

Care Net  
Roland C. Warren – President/CEO

Christian Medical Association  
David Stevens, MD, MA (Ethics) – CEO

CitizenLink  
Paul Weber – President/CEO

Citizens for Community Values  
Phil Burrell – President

Concerned Women for America  
Legislative Action  
Penny Nance – CEO and President

Family Research Council  
David Christensen – VP for Government Affairs

Institute for Youth Development  
Shepherd Smith - President

March for Life Education and Defense Fund  
Jeanne Mancini – President

Medical Institute for Sexual Health  
Freda Bush, MD – President/CEO

Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission  
Russell Moore – President

Students for Life  
Kristan Hawkins – President

V5 Initiative  
Cristina Vollmer de Burelli-  
Executive Director

Alaska Family Action  
Jim Minnery – President

Center for Arizona Policy  
Cathi Herrod – President

Colorado Family Action  
Debra Chaves – Executive Director

Cornerstone Family Council  
Julie Lynde – Executive Director

Delaware Family Policy Council  
Nicole Theis – President

Family Heritage Alliance  
Dale Bartscher – Executive Director

Family Policy Alliance of Kansas  
Steve Brunk – Executive Director

Family Policy Institute of Washington  
Joseph Backholm – Executive Director

Hawaii Family Advocates  
James R. "Duke" Aiona, Jr. – President

Hawaii Family Forum  
Eva Andrade

Indiana Family Institute  
Curt Smith – President

*Louisiana Family Forum  
Gene Mills – President*

*Minnesota Family Council  
John Helmberger – CEO*

*Nebraska Family Alliance  
Al Riskowski – Executive Director*

*New Jersey Family Policy Council  
Len Deo – Founder & President*

*New Yorker’s Family Research Foundation  
Rev. Jason J. McGuire – Executive Director*

*North Carolina Family Policy Council  
John L. Rustin – President*

*North Dakota Family Alliance  
Tom Freier – Executive Director*

*Pennsylvania Family Council  
Michael Greer - President*

*The Family Foundation of Virginia  
Victoria Cobb - President*

*The Family Foundation of Kentucky  
Kent Ostrander – Executive Director*

*The Family Leader  
Bob Vander Plaats – President/CEO*

*Wisconsin Family Action  
Julaine K. Appling - President*