

The Association of Politically Active Christians

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2010 MEMORANDUM OF OPPOSITION S.3836/A.1806-A (SEX EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM/"HEALTHY TEENS ACT") Contact: Stephen P. Hayford (518-364-5324)

For the following reasons, APAC opposes S.3836/A.1806-A, which would create a new funding stream for the purpose of "age-appropriate" comprehensive sex education in New York's public schools.

- **The proposed legislation excludes and ignores the effective and proven approach of abstinence education.** The memo accompanying the proposed legislation recites the compelling need to reduce teen pregnancies and STD infections in New York State. APAC wholeheartedly agrees, and also believes that there is a compelling need to reduce the number of teen abortions in New York State. However, the bill and memo give no indication as to why comprehensive sex education should be considered an effective remedy for these problems. APAC believes that if any education regarding sexual matters is provided in public schools, it should be the effective and proven approach of abstinence education. The approach contemplated in this legislation is likely to be part of the problem, not part of the solution.
- **The proposed legislation is fiscally irresponsible.** Unfortunately, New York State already offers comprehensive sex education in public schools. The State is experiencing fiscal difficulties at this time. This is not the time to increase spending on a dubious and controversial program. Furthermore, if this legislation is passed, Planned Parenthood will be a likely recipient of the available funding. Given Planned Parenthood's history of unsafe abortions, contempt for the law, and callous disregard for the health and well-being of both women and children, it is—to say the least—an inappropriate recipient of state funding.
- **The proposed legislation lacks appropriate limitations on the age of the students to be educated regarding sexual matters.** The bill does not contain any age limits whatsoever. Under this bill, "age-appropriate" comprehensive sex education could be provided to kindergartners. This is unacceptable.
- **The proposed legislation is anti-parent and anti-family.** The bill does not include an opt-out provision for parents who do not wish to have their school-aged children exposed to "comprehensive sex education." The State of New York should respect the role of parents in providing information about sexual matters, and about the moral values that relate to such matters.