



## Sexuality Education for Life Minnesota Coalition (SEFL) April 2006 E-Newsletter

**Sexuality Education for Life Minnesota** is a coalition of educational, religious, health, social service and advocacy organizations, as well as concerned individuals that promotes lifelong healthy sexuality by advocating for policies on comprehensive sexuality education and access to confidential health care services.

### Welcome New Partners

Welcome new SEFL partners: Minnesota Public Health Association, League of Women Voters and American Association of University Women of Minnesota! We hope you find your affiliation with our coalition to be helpful for you in your work.

### Comprehensive Sexuality Education Bill

The Comprehensive Sexuality and Family Life Education bill (SF2977) was rolled into the Senate Education Omnibus bill [SF2994](#). At this time, the House bill, [HF3708](#) has not had a hearing so a conference committee will decide whether or not it stays in the version of the Education Omnibus bill that goes to the governor.

Please send a note to the Senate authors who co-sponsored the Comprehensive Sexuality and Family Life bill to thank them for providing leadership on this issue: Senators [Sandy Pappas](#), [Steve Kelley](#), [Sharon Marko](#), [Sheila Kiscaden](#), [Bob Kierlin](#).

### **TAKE ACTION – Contact Your U.S. Senator**

Members of Congress will be in their home districts from April 10-23. This is the perfect opportunity for you to meet with your senators and tell them just how important the REAL Act is to you and your community. Face-to-face meetings are the best way to address your issue with a policy maker. The Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act ([H.R. 2553](#) and [S.368](#)), formerly the Family Life Education act would provide federal money to support responsible sexuality education in schools. This education would include science-based, medically accurate, and age appropriate public health information about both abstinence and contraception.

Move quickly to schedule a meeting with your senators as they have limited time in their home districts. Remember – you do not have to be an expert to visit your member of Congress!

If you cannot schedule a meeting, write your senators, urging them to co-sponsor the REAL Act. Go to the Advocates For Youth Website at <http://capwiz.com/advofy/issues/alert/?alertid=8230826&type=CO> to send a letter to your Senators.

### **CURRENT REAL ACT SENATE CO-SPONSORS (as of January 2006)**

Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA)  
Sen. Jon Corzine (D-NJ)  
Sen. James Jeffords (I-VT)  
Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA)  
Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R-RI)  
**Sen. Mark Dayton (D-MN)**  
Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-MA)

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **YOUTH SPREADIN' THE TRUTH**

April 19, 2006

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Neighborhood House, 179 Robie Street East—St. Paul

Minnesota Teens for AIDS Prevention (MN-TAP) is sponsoring this community forum on comprehensive sexuality education. The forum is open to youth, parents, educators and concerned citizens. To register, click [here](#).

#### **Advocacy Lessons with Shelby Knox**

May 5, 2006

3:30 – 5:30 p.m.

Earle Brown Heritage Center, 6155 Earle Brown Drive – Brooklyn Center

Sponsored by the Sex Ed for Life Coalition, this dynamic session follows the MOAPPP conference and is open to all teens interested in learning more about advocacy for comprehensive sexuality education. Shelby Knox and Rebecca Fox of SIECUS will lead this interactive, **youth only** program. The cost is \$15 per youth. There is a group discount, 5 for \$50. To download the registration form, click [here](#).

#### **SEFL Youth Lobby Day at the Capitol**

May 10, 2006

4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

State Capitol

Teens will learn more about the legislative process and issues surrounding comprehensive sexuality education and minors' consent. For more information, contact Kate at MAP at [publicpolicy@mnaidsproject.org](mailto:publicpolicy@mnaidsproject.org).

### **Watch the “Education of Shelby Knox” Video**

This documentary chronicles the high school years of Shelby Knox, a smart, independent high school girl and proponent of comprehensive sex education in Lubbock, Texas.

Monday, April 24, 2006, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. at Lutheran Social Services

2414 Park Ave, Minneapolis. To register, e-mail [Leah@moapp.org](mailto:Leah@moapp.org).

## In the News

### **Sex-Ed Class Becomes Latest School Battleground**

An article from the Wall Street Journal about sexuality education examines comprehensive vs. abstinence-only education. To read the article, click [HERE](#).

### **Abstinence Focus in Wisconsin**

The Senate and Assembly in Wisconsin have passed legislation requiring schools to spend more time emphasizing abstinence. The governor has not yet signed the bill into law. For more information, click [HERE](#).

### **The Battle to Ban Birth Control**

Although SEFL does not directly support birth control access, it does support accurate information about it so young people can make healthy decisions. This article describes the coming war against contraception that uses misinformation to make a case against birth control. To read the article, click [HERE](#).

## Resources

### **The Impact of Sex and HIV Education Programs in Schools and Communities on Sexual Behaviors among Young Adults** [Now available on the Healthy Teen Network website](#)

, this new report by Douglas Kirby, B.A. Laris and Lori Roller addresses the effects of sex and HIV education programs, characteristics of effective programs and implications for policy and practice. Douglas Kirby is a keynote speaker at the MOAPPP Annual Conference on Thursday, May 4, 2006.

### **Eighth Annual European Study Tour**

Advocates for Youth and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte are sponsoring the eighth European study tour, October 20-November 6, 2006. Apply now to travel to Netherlands, France and Germany to identify strategies, programs and policies that have positively influenced adolescent sexual behavior and outcomes in these countries. For more information and to download the application, please visit [www.advocatesforyouth.org](http://www.advocatesforyouth.org)

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Sexuality Education for Life-Minnesota is a coalition of educational, religious, health, social service and advocacy organizations, as well as concerned individuals that promotes lifelong healthy sexuality by advocating for policies on comprehensive sexuality education and access to confidential health care services. Sexuality Education for Life-Minnesota is coordinated by the Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPP) [www.moapp.org](http://www.moapp.org) and the Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP) [www.mnaidsproject.org](http://www.mnaidsproject.org).

Sex Ed for Life is supported by the Jay and Rose Phillips Family Foundation, the Minneapolis Foundation and the Ms. Foundation.

For more information on the Sexuality Education for Life Coalition, go to [www.SexEdforLife.org](http://www.SexEdforLife.org). Please feel free to forward to others interested in supporting the health of Minnesota youth or tell them to sign up for Sex Ed for Life at [www.SexEdforLife.org](http://www.SexEdforLife.org).

To unsubscribe from Sex Ed for Life, email [Leah@moapp.org](mailto:Leah@moapp.org). Subject line: unsubscribe Sex Ed for Life