



January 12, 2005

Honorable Henry Waxman
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515

Dear Representative Waxman:

On behalf of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), an organization representing 47,000 physicians dedicated to improving women's health care, we thank you for releasing the report "The Content of Federally Funded Abstinence Only Education Programs," highlighting the importance of ensuring that all federally funded sexuality education programs include information that is medically accurate and complete.

Young people need comprehensive sexuality education that encourages them to delay sexual activity while providing them with accurate information about how to protect themselves against unintended pregnancy and STDs, including HIV/AIDS. More than 750,000 teenagers become pregnant each year, and 80% of teenage pregnancies are unintended. Every year 3 million teens-about 1 in 4 sexually active teens-get an STD. Misinformation only increases these alarming rates.

We can, and must, help America's young people do better, make better choices, and have brighter futures. Straightforward facts and information, based on the best medical science, can help us achieve this goal.

Thank you for recognizing the importance of ensuring medically accurate information in federally funded sex education programs. We look forward to working with you on this and other important issues.

Sincerely,

Vivian M. Dickerson, MD
President