

Senator Arlen Specter  
711 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

August 23, 2005

Dear Senator Specter,

We the undersigned would like to express our strong gratitude and support for your report language in the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies spending bill directing a review of the Department of Health and Human Services' website, 4parents.gov. All of us agree that parents should be the primary sexuality educators of their children. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us all to make certain that parents receive the most accurate information and resources they need to achieve this difficult task.

Unfortunately, as you have recognized and as many concerned advocates, teens, and parents have expressed to Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt, 4parents.gov fails to meet these goals and instead relies on fear to motivate behavior and contains numerous errors and biases that undermine its intent of encouraging parent-child communication around sex and sexuality. As recognized by the expert reviews of the website commissioned by Representative Waxman and released by him on July 13th, 4parents.gov presents biased and inaccurate information as fact and does not address the needs of many youth, including sexually active youth, youth who have been or are being sexually abused, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) youth. Although we recognize that a few changes have been made to date, these minimal changes are not sufficient to address the biased, misleading, and medically inaccurate misinformation contained on the website and it continues to concern us that this resource for parents is still up and running.

We appreciate your work in ensuring that America's families are provided with the most accurate information to help assure their well being by directing the Department of Health and Human Services to review the findings of the study, undertake a review of the website by Departmental public health and scientific experts, and make any necessary changes to conform with scientific evidence. Additionally, we hope there might be further discussion and inquiry into the non-competitive process HHS used to select the National Physicians Center for Family Resource, Inc. (NPC) in creating the website's design and content and the payment to this organization of \$64,800 in taxpayer money for a clearly inferior product.

We hope that you will continue your efforts to ensure medically accurate information that does not reflect ideological views, and we pledge to stand behind you in these efforts.

Sincerely,

**Pennsylvania Organizations**

American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania  
Family Health Council, Inc. (Pittsburgh, PA)  
Family Planning Council (Philadelphia, PA)  
Health GAP (Philadelphia, PA)

Monterey Peninsula Chapter of National Organization for Women  
Pennsylvania Coalition to Prevent Teen Pregnancy  
Women's Law Project (Pittsburgh, PA)

**National Organizations**

9to5, National Association of Working Women  
Advocates for Youth  
AIDS Action Council  
AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families  
AIDS Resource Alliance  
American Academy of HIV Medicine  
American Association of Sex Educators, Counselors, & Therapists  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American College Health Association  
American Foundation for AIDS Research  
American Humanist Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Social Health Association  
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP)  
Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)  
Gay and Lesbian Medical Association  
Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN)  
Health Access and Privacy Alliance  
Healthy Teen Network  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International Women's Health Coalition  
Internet Sexuality Information Services (ISIS-Inc.)  
Legal Momentum  
Mary Wohlford Foundation  
Ms. Foundation for Women  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH)  
National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA-US)  
National Coalition for STD Directors  
National Council of Jewish Women (NCJW)  
National Council of Women's Organizations  
National Council on Family Relations (NCFR)  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Associations  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force  
National Minority AIDS Council  
National Network for Youth  
National Organization for Women  
National Organization Responding to AIDS (NORA)  
National Partnership for Women and Families  
Our Bodies Ourselves  
Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays

Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Presbyterian Church (USA), Washington Office  
Religious Institute on Sexual Morality Justice, and Healing  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)  
The AIDS Institute  
The Title II Community AIDS National Network  
Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries  
YWCA USA

**State-Based Organizations**

Ab Gyn Services of Phoenix, P.C. (AZ)  
ACLU of Vermont  
AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts, Inc.  
AIDS Alabama  
AIDS Foundation Chicago (IL)  
AIDS Project Los Angeles  
Alaska Women's Lobby  
Basic Rights Oregon  
Buffalo Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Services (NY)  
California Adolescent Health Collaborative  
California Alliance Concerned with School Age Parenting and Pregnancy Prevention (CAC SAP)  
Central New York HIV CARE Network  
Douglas of Monterey County (CA)  
Emory University Office of Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender Life  
Family Planning Association of Northeast Ohio, Inc.  
FutureNet, Inc., The Iowa Network for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, Parenting, & Sexual Health  
Gay/Lesbian Faculty-Staff Association (GLFSA) of Montclair State University  
Illinois PTA  
Indiana Justice Fund  
Maine Civil Liberties Union  
Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPP)  
NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio  
National Organization for Women - Nebraska  
New York AIDS Coalition  
Okanogan Family Planning (WA)  
Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts  
Planned Parenthood Mar Monte (CA)  
Planned Parenthood of Central Ohio  
Planned Parenthood of Chester County  
Planned Parenthood of East Central Illinois  
Planned Parenthood of Georgia  
Planned Parenthood of Hawaii  
Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington DC, Inc.  
Planned Parenthood of Nebraska & Council Bluffs  
Planned Parenthood of Southeast Iowa  
Planned Parenthood of the Inland Northwest

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains (CO, MO, NM, NV, WY)  
Program for the Study of Sexuality, Gender, Health, and Human Rights (New York, NY)  
Protestants for the Common Good (Chicago, IL)  
Public Health - Seattle & King County (WA)  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice of Northern California  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, Indiana  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice-Missouri  
Reproductive Rights Coalition of Monterey County (CA)  
Reproductive Rights Network of Santa Cruz County (CA)  
San Diego BRIGHT Families Project (CA)  
SERT\* (Sexuality Education Resource and Training) (Boise, ID)  
Six Rivers Planned Parenthood (CA)  
South Carolina Equality Coalition  
TellThem! (SC)  
Texas Association of Planned Parenthood Affiliates (TAPPA)  
Upper Hudson Planned Parenthood (Albany, NY)  
West Virginia Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
Women's Coalition South Bay (CA)  
Wyoming Health Council