



## Monroe County Legislature

**CARRIE M. ANDREWS**  
ASSISTANT DEMOCRATIC LEADER

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Committee Assignment
<b>Memorializing Referral -L</b>

**CARRIE M. ANDREWS**  
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April 23, 2009

To the Honorable  
Monroe County Legislature  
407 County Office Building  
39 West Main Street  
Rochester, New York 14614

**Re: Memorializing the U.S. Congress to Pass and President Barack Obama to Sign into Law Bills H.R.1551/S.611, the Responsible Education about Life (REAL) Act**

Honorable Legislators:

According to U.S. Census data 89.8 million U.S. citizens, 41% of the population, declare themselves as unmarried and single individuals. The average age of marriage for women is 25 to 26, and for men 27 to 28. The current median age when an individual becomes sexually active is 17.

While it is uncontested that abstinence is the healthiest choice for young teenagers, it remains irresponsible to continue abstinence-only sex education programs when countless studies and data have confirmed that the life-choices of our society demonstrate the need for comprehensive sex education before marriage. Without the proper access to information, young people remain at risk to contracting HIV or STDs, and unwanted pregnancies. A report from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy found that two-thirds of reviewed comprehensive sex education programs demonstrated positive behavioral changes, including reduced number of sexual partners and increased contraceptive use; while there remains no assertive data that shows abstinence-only programs succeed in similar manners.

According to the National Center for Health Statistics, more than 90% of Americans become sexually active before marriage. To continue to strictly provide federal funding for abstinence-only programs will not deter or delay sexual activity, but will further facilitate the spread of inaccurate information to our youth.

The Responsible Education about Life (REAL) Act calls for the appropriation of federal funds to implement comprehensive and age-appropriate sex education in schools



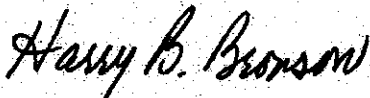
that would include abstinence; and medically accurate information regarding contraceptives and condoms, healthy relationships and decision-making. Currently, there is no opportunity for federal funding for such programs.

Therefore, I urge you to join me in memorializing the U.S. Congress to pass and President Barack Obama to sign into law bills H.R.1551/S.611, the Responsible Education about Life (REAL) Act; and help protect and empower our youth to make well-informed decisions regarding their reproductive health.

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Andrews  
Assistant Democratic Leader



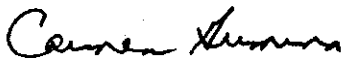
Harry B. Bronson  
Democratic Minority Leader



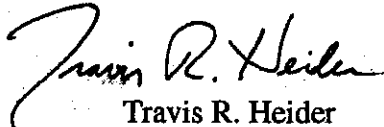
Calvin Lee, Jr.  
Assistant Minority Leader



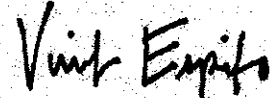
Richard A. Beebe  
Legislator - District 6



Carmen F. Gumina  
Legislator - District 8



Travis R. Heider  
Legislator - District 14



Vincent Esposito  
Legislator - District 16



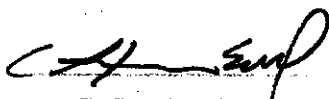
Ted O'Brien  
Legislator - District 17



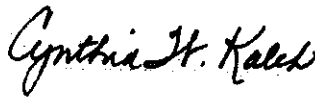
Glenn J. Gamble  
Legislator - District 22



Paul E. Haney  
Legislator - District 23



C. Stephen Eckel  
Legislator - District 26



Cynthia W. Kaleh  
Legislator - District 28