



## William G. Batchelder

State Representative  
69<sup>th</sup> House District

## Lynn Wachtmann

State Representative  
75<sup>th</sup> House District

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December 11, 2007

The Honorable Ted Strickland  
Governor of the State of Ohio  
Statehouse

Dear Governor Strickland,

We the undersigned members of Ohio's General Assembly stand in support of Ohio's youth and their continued access to the best health message of Abstinence. We respectfully request that you amend your application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services so that it is consistent with the funding parameters for federal abstinence education funds in the state of Ohio.

The budget was passed with a near unanimous vote by both houses of the General Assembly and included continued state funding for abstinence education as a means of gaining access to federal abstinence education funding. This bipartisan support is ongoing, having been initiated with the unanimous passage of Ohio's Abstinence law in 1998, H.B. 189 of the 122<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. This law, passed by a unanimous vote in each house of the General Assembly, mandates that schools across Ohio teach abstinence education as provided by the Title V Abstinence Education Block Grant. In the era of financial shortfall for Ohio education, we call upon you to apply for these federal funds in a manner consistent with the Congressional guidelines for these funds so that schools may receive continued assistance in implementing Ohio's abstinence law.

Abstinence education programs empower teens to make truly informed choices regarding their sexual health; student receive accurate information about birth control and they are encouraged to avoid the risky behaviors that can lead to unplanned pregnancy, STDs and/or the dangerous emotional complications that can result.

Therefore, in conjunction with parents and students from all across the state of Ohio, we request, on their behalf, that you amend your application for Title V dollars designated for abstinence education of the State of Ohio. Please Governor Strickland, give this renewed consideration.

Be assured that with the acceptance of the federal dollars, trained abstinence/relationship educators will continue to offer full and accurate medical information regarding healthy decision-making to Ohio middle and high school students. Abstinence education is the only option that provides risk free sexual health and teens navigate through the difficult adolescent years.

Thank you Governor, for your attention today and your immediate consideration of this request.

Respectfully,