Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2007

Chairman David Obey
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Jim Walsh
House Appropriations Committee
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh:

As you prepare the Fiscal Year 2008 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill, we respectfully request your support for the President's budget request that includes a $28 million increase for the Community Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) grant program over FY2007 levels.

CBAE funds provide support to public and private entities for the implementation of abstinence education for adolescents who are ages 12 to 18 in communities nationwide. Abstinence education programs have been shown to effectively reduce the risks of depression, out-of-wedlock pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. These important programs have proven effective in teaching teenagers to stay healthy, develop strong self-esteem, and improve their futures. Researchers at the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently acknowledged the role that abstinence education played in the national teenage pregnancy rate reaching a 58 year low. The CDC also found that the increase in abstinence among teenagers is substantially more responsible for the drop in teenage pregnancy rates than any increased contraception use.

The Community Based Abstinence Education program is important for communities who wish to promote good and healthy choices for our nation's adolescents. These funds help communities to implement quality abstinence education programs in their schools, and to teach their children important lessons about health and character that will impact them their entire lives.

We urge you to support the President's request for increased funding for abstinence education.

Sincerely,

J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

Robin Hayes
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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J. Gresham Barrett
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Mike Rogers
Member of Congress
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