

2011 ILLINOIS HIV/AIDS LOBBY DAYS

VOTE YES: Illinois Personal Responsibility Education Program (Illinois-PREP) Act



**SB 1619 – Senator Heather Steans - Iris Martinez - David Koehler
Pamela Althoff - William Delgado, Emil Jones, III, Jeffrey M.
Schoenberg, Mattie Hunter, and Toi W. Hutchinson**

Reduce unintended pregnancy, STI's and HIV/AIDS among youth

REQUIREMENTS:

- If an elementary or secondary public school offers sex education or sexual health education courses, the programs must be medically accurate and developmentally and age appropriate.
- Programs must include the benefits of delaying or abstaining from sexual activity.
- The Illinois Department of Human Services will develop program rules.
- Private or religious schools are not impacted in any way by this bill.

PARENT CHOICE:

- Schools must make sexual health education course materials available for review upon request.
- Parents can remove their children from sexual health education courses for any reason. Students cannot be penalized in any way if their parents remove them from a class.

STATE REGULATION AND LOCAL CONTROL:

- Local school districts have complete and sole authority to teach or **not to teach** sexual health education.
- The Illinois Department of Human Services will develop rules to guide Illinois PREP implementation.
- Local districts will be able to choose which curriculum to implement. The Illinois Department of Human Services will publish a list of approved curriculums.
- The rules shall permit local school districts to adapt curriculums to the specific demographic, ethnic, linguistic or cultural needs of their communities.

FUNDING:

- The legislation is not an unfunded mandate since school districts have the choice whether or not to teach sexual health education.
- The legislation directs the State to seek funding from the federal government, allocated to evidenced-based teen pregnancy prevention programs. In 2010, Illinois received \$2.23 million from the new federal Personal Responsibility Education Program.

TRAINING:

Schools will receive, at no cost, assistance from the State to support teacher training using existing federal funds.

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