



ACTION ALERT FROM THE UUA WASHINGTON OFFICE

**Monday, March 17: National Interfaith Call-In Day
to Support Comprehensive Sexuality Education**

GET REAL!

Since 1996, the federal government has spent over 1.4 billion dollars on ineffective abstinence-only education programs that are not even required to be medically accurate (and frequently are not)! For example, by law these programs cannot encourage condom use; they can only discuss condoms in order to emphasize their failure rates. In the same period, zero dollars were spent on comprehensive programs that could teach about abstinence and methods of risk reduction.

The **Responsible Education About Life (REAL) Act** would create federal funding for age-appropriate, medically-accurate sexuality education programs. These programs would be required to stress the value of abstinence without teaching or promoting religion. The Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations is one of more than 125 organizations supporting the REAL Act. The 2007 UUA General Assembly approved a statement specifically urging Congress to pass the REAL Act. This call-in day—which is happening when UU and United Church of Christ activists will be lobbying on Capitol Hill—is the perfect opportunity for us to let Congress know that according to our religious values, young people deserve accurate information! Get REAL!

Call your Members of Congress on Monday, March 17th

- Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-225-3121 and ask for your Representative or Senator (www.house.gov; www.senate.gov)
- Suggested Message: "I'm calling today to ask for the Senator's support of the REAL Act (S.972; H.R. 1653) which would provide federal funding for comprehensive sexuality education programs. As a religious person I'm outraged that we're failing to protect the health of our nation's young people by funding abstinence-only programs that promote medically inaccurate information. Please support the REAL Act."

For more information, please visit www.uua.org/socialjustice or contact Grace Garner, 202-296-4672 x13, ggarner@uua.org.



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