

TALKING POINTS FOR PARENTS

About Teen Pregnancy and STDs

- In 2008, there were almost 52,000 teen births in California, totaling \$1.1 billion in estimated annual taxpayer cost.¹
- In 2006, it was estimated that one out of every four (25 percent) sexually active teens in California will get a sexually transmitted disease (STD) and that 27 percent of all reported STDs are among California's fifteen to nineteen year-olds.²

About Comprehensive Sex Education

- Research shows that sex-education programs in schools play an instrumental role in decreasing rates of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.
- In 2004 the California legislature passed SB 71- The Comprehensive Sexual Health Education and HIV/AIDS Act (*Education Code* sections 51930–51939). This law changed the education code to say that when schools teach sexual health education it must be comprehensive.
- The law requires that if schools offer sex education, it must be medically accurate, free of bias, appropriate for all students, and taught by trained teachers. It also must cover abstinence, effectiveness and safety of contraception, protection from sexually transmitted diseases, and decision-making.

Talking to Schools

- It is the responsibility of local school districts to provide instruction that is in compliance with this law.
- [School name] uses [textbook name] to teach sex education. This textbook does not fully meet the requirements of California law because the information it contains is [biased, inaccurate, out of date, does not cover all contraception, etc.].
- As a [parent, resident, student], I feel it is essential that teens in my community be taught age appropriate and medically accurate sex education, as designated by California law.
- I urge you to help in revising the educational materials to include factual and comprehensive sex education so that teens receive the necessary skills to protect themselves from STDs and prevent unintended pregnancy.

¹ [http://teenbirths.phi.org/2010TeenBirthsReport\(2008data\).pdf](http://teenbirths.phi.org/2010TeenBirthsReport(2008data).pdf)

² <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/data/statistics/Pages/STDDData.aspx>