

To ensure that Minnesota policies regarding adolescent pregnancy, prevention and parenting are evidence-based, MOAPPP advocated for and monitored the following issues in 2007.

Responsible Family Life and Sexuality Education ([HF2245 Education Omnibus Bill](#)) a bill to require and establish standards for sexuality education in MN public schools for grades 7-12. Repeals Section 121A.23 (Programs to Prevent and Reduce the Risks of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases).

The responsible sexuality education bill made it farther than it ever has before through the legislative process, but unfortunately once again fell short of being signed into law. The bill received hearings in the House Education Policy and Finance Committees and was included in the House Education Omnibus bill. While the bill was heard in the Senate Education Policy Committee it was not heard in Senate Education Finance and was therefore not included in the Senate's Education Omnibus bill. Supportive Education Conference Committee members ensured that the language was included in the bill that emerged from conference committee. Prior to being heard on the Senate floor on the last day of session the language was removed during last minute negotiations with the Governor, after he signaled his opposition to comprehensive sex education.

MN ENABL Program a statewide competitive grant program supporting communities that encourage postponing sexual involvement and promote abstinence until marriage.

Minnesota has previously applied for and received Federal Title V Section 510 funding as well as matching state dollars to fund this grant program. This year the Governor's proposed budget included \$500,000 annually of Federal TANF funds to replace federal 510 abstinence funds and allow for a Minnesota tailored abstinence approach.

The Health and Human Services Budget, did not appropriate TANF funds for this program. The budget cut general fund dollars for this program by \$220,000 annually, leaving the program funded at a level of \$220,000 annually. To date MN has not applied for federal abstinence-only-until-marriage funding. This leaves the program funded at approximately 1/4 of its previous combined state & federal level.

Family Planning (HF1078/ SF0967) A SafPlan initiative. Family Planning Special Projects (FPSP) grant funding received an increase of \$2.3 million in the Health and Human Services Budget bill. The '05 cuts to FPSP grants that were set to take effect in '07 were eliminated. The Governor signed the bill into law.

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Family Planning ([HF298/SF184](#)) A SafPlan initiative. A bill authorizing registered nurses to dispense oral contraceptives in family planning clinics and adjusting the medical assistance reimbursement rates for family planning clinics.

SF 184 was amended on the House floor to include language that would have required parental notification when prescribing oral contraceptives to girls under the age of 12. The bill was later fixed in conference committee. The Governor signed the bill into law.

Family Planning ([HF1442/SF1266](#)) EC in the ER: The Compassionate Care of Sexual Assault Victims Act a bill requiring hospital emergency rooms to provide emergency contraception, prophylactic antibiotics, and information to sexual assault victims.

An initiative of NARAL ProChoice MN, this bill received wide bi-partisan support and was signed into law by the Governor. In the House floor debate, Republicans offered amendments that would have required parental consent for minors prior to offering ec or STI prophylaxis. These amendments were defeated.

General Prevention –

HPV Vaccine ([HF530/SF243](#)) a bill to require human papilloma virus vaccination for female children.

This bill went the way of most attempts to legislate vaccine requirements for school aged girls across the U.S. Introduced early in session, it did not receive a committee hearing in either the House or the Senate. The bill underwent a change in both House and Senate Chief authors as the medical community and MDH weighed in with the preference that vaccine policy development occur in the rule making process rather than through legislation. National and MN media coverage throughout the session portrayed the issue as conflicted both in terms of interfering with parental rights as well as questioning the science/efficacy/safety of the vaccine.

Cervical Cancer Prevention and HPV Vaccine Study: The Health and Human Services bill includes statutory language requiring the commissioner to reconvene the cervical cancer task force and study and make recommendations on the human papilloma virus vaccine.

Support for Pregnant and Parenting Adolescents

Modification of Absent Day Policy ([Health and Human Services Bill - HF1078, Art. 19, Sec. 3, sub. 4](#)) Changes in the Absent Day Policy making CCAP more workable for parents

Policy changes in the bill include:

- Excusing a child whose parent or sibling stays home ill.
- Authorizing public health and school nurses to verify illness.
- If a childcare center sends a child home for illness the center director or teacher may verify the illness.
- Exempting Adolescent parents under the age of 21 enrolled in school based programs from the absent day limits upon request of the program and approval of the county.
- Counties may pay for more absent days than the statewide absent day policy if current market practice in the county justifies payment for those additional days and the policy is included in the county's child care fund plan.

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The funding for these policy changes begins January 2009. Due to this 18-month delay in implementation, groups are continuing to work with DHS to simplify the illness reporting system now required. In addition, bridge funding in the form of a foundation grant is being explored.

New Chance Program Appropriation ([SF82/HF2317](#)) a bill appropriating money to the Hennepin County New Chance Program

\$280,000/biennium (general fund) is appropriated beginning July 1, 2007 for a grant to the New Chance Program. This program shall provide comprehensive services through a private nonprofit agency to young parents in Hennepin County who have dropped out of school and are receiving public assistance. The program is accountable to skills development, education, job training and job placement outcomes.

Related Issues – Youth Development After School Community Learning Programs

This Youth Community Connections (YCC) initiative succeeded in getting \$5.37 million in one time money over two years allocated to programs with outcomes including increased school connectedness, improved academic achievement, increased capacity to become productive adults, and prevention of truancy and juvenile crime. Money will be through a competitive RFP process administered through MDE.

Related Issues – DREAM Act

The DREAM Act would allow undocumented students to qualify for in-state tuition rates at state universities and colleges under the conditions that the student has attended high school in Minnesota for at least two years, has graduated from a Minnesota high school (or attained the equivalent of a high school degree) and has registered and been accepted to a public college or university. Currently, such students are classified as international students, pay out-of-state tuition and are not eligible to receive financial aid.

Introduced again this year, the Act was removed from the higher-education bill when Gov. Pawlenty allegedly threatened to veto the entire bill unless the DREAM Act was removed. A compromise was added to the higher ed bill where 7 schools in MNSCU system will now have no out of state tuition.

Federal Issue Update Abstinence Funding

Despite earlier positive signs that the new Congress would reduce funding for Title V and flat fund Community Based Abstinence Education (CBAE – the most restrictive form of federal abstinence funding), the House Appropriations Committee voted to increase funding to CBAE by \$27.8 million, providing a total of \$141 million in funding to CBAE. The subcommittee markup, which occurred June 7, will likely be followed by a full committee markup the week of June 11 and a vote on the House floor following that.

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