

AIDS Foundation OF CHICAGO

411 South Wells Street
Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60607

Tel (312) 922-2322
Fax (312) 922-2916
TDD (312) 922-2917

Support SB 457 (Ronan, Schoenberg, Martinez, Raoul, Hunter) Responsible Sex Education Program

Senate Bill 457, the Responsible Sex Education Program, helps local schools and community groups provide adolescents with the information, assistance, skills, and support services they need to enable them to make responsible decisions about their sexuality, health, and well being.

SB 457 will offer grants to eligible applicants, including public school districts and community-based organizations, that agree to provide the following components of instruction:

- Instruction must be **age appropriate**
- All materials and information must be **medically accurate**
- Students will be taught that **abstinence** is the only sure way to avoid pregnancy and/or sexually transmitted diseases
- Students will be informed on how to make responsible decisions to **prevent sexually transmitted diseases and unintended pregnancies**
- **Local control is maintained** -- local schools and other community groups still decide what they teach; this program gives them more choices
- In an effort to promote high self-esteem, youth will learn ways to establish and maintain **healthy life skills** including goal setting, communication, and developing positive relationships
- Instruction will provide youth with information on how to **avoid unwanted verbal, physical, and sexual advances**, and in addition, on how not to make those advances
- Instruction will emphasize the specific **responsibility** of both males and females in sexual decision-making
- Instruction will provide information on how **alcohol and drug use** can affect responsible decision-making

The new program will be **administered by the Illinois Department of Human Services** and will be held to high standards. Annual reports will include information on program success and failure rates regarding altered attitudes of students.

For more information, contact John Peller, Director of State Affairs, (312) 922-2322.

Fact sheet prepared by Illinois Campaign for Responsible Sex Education:

www.responsiblesexed.org.