



Cut funds for abstinence-only

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Letters to the Editor

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Inc., last week urged Congress to remove abstinence-only funding from the Labor Health and Human Services appropriation bill, expected to be voted this week by the House Appropriations Committee.

While the legislation includes positive increases in funding around HIV/AIDS, runaway and homeless youth and domestic violence programs, it also includes an egregious increase in abstinence-only funding for the Community Based Abstinence Education program -- the largest and most controversial federal abstinence-only funding program.

Widely reported scientific studies have unequivocally shown the ineffectiveness of abstinence-only programs.

Since 1982, more than \$1.5 billion in government funding has been given to abstinence-only programs, which have been proven ineffective and often contain religious doctrine, inaccurate medical information and harmful stereotypes about the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

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