



A coalition of organizations calling for medically accurate comprehensive sex education for all Indiana students

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**Get Real, Indiana Coalition Announces New
Sexuality Education Website**

*Coalition calls for medically accurate, age-appropriate sexuality curricula
for Indiana students*

Indianapolis – *Get Real, Indiana!*—a coalition of 39 Hoosier organizations that support medically accurate, age-appropriate sexuality education for Indiana students—has unveiled a new website to provide state educators and school personnel with unbiased information on sexuality education: www.getrealindiana.org. The site includes statistics on contraceptives, sexually transmitted infections, up-to-date information on state requirements for sexuality education and links to other valuable resources. Individuals can also sign a petition calling for comprehensive sex education for all Indiana students.

“This has truly been a group effort, one of which we couldn’t be more proud,” said Kathleen Baldwin, vice president of education and training. “There has been an incredible amount of research and thought that has gone into this website and we think it can become an incredible resource for Hoosier parents and educators.”

Researchers at Indiana University, commissioned by the GRI coalition, surveyed teachers, nurses and counselors in Indiana’s public middle and high schools to find out what schools were teaching about sexuality. They found that the majority Indiana classrooms were leaving out vital topics such as sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy, sexual abuse and contraception as well as state mandated topics such as HIV/AIDS and self exams. The GRI website was designed to help educators access up to date information and resources.

“Many people of faith support comprehensive sexuality education,” said Kaye McSpadden, president, Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice. “Many faith traditions affirm sexuality as an integral, natural, and positive part of God’s creation. Young people need information about abstinence plus facts about contraception and reproductive health in order to make responsible decisions. By giving teens the tools they need to prevent unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases, Indiana schools will be helping them to become responsible, healthy, whole persons.”

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In addition to advocating for comprehensive sex education for all Indiana students, the Get Real, Indiana! coalition supports the right of parents to choose a medically accurate and age-appropriate sexuality curriculum for their children.

The GRI website includes information about the current laws related to sexuality education in Indiana, research study results on what does and does not work in educating students about sexuality, and science-based, community resources available to school personnel, concerned citizens and community organizations.

The GRI coalition includes: American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, & Therapists; American Association of University Women—Evansville Branch; American Association of University Women—Valparaiso Branch; American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana; Action Center—Marion County Health Department; Congregation Beth-El Zedeck; Damien Center; Demia; Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance—ISU chapter; Fort Wayne Feminists; Fort Wayne Women’s Bureau; Health Access & Privacy Alliance; Healthy Indiana Youth Alliance; Heartland Clinic; Human & Civil Rights Committee of the Indiana State Teachers Association; Indiana Family Health Council, Inc.; Indiana NOW; Indiana Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice; IU GLBT Student Support Services; IU Women’s Student Association; Indiana American Association of University Women; Indiana Youth Group; Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation; Interfaith Forum Columbus; Jewish Community Relations Council; League of Women Voters of Indiana; Muncie Branch, American Association of University Women; Muncie/Delaware County League of Women Voters; Muncie/Delaware County NOW; National Association of Social Workers—Indiana chapter; PFLAG, Muncie chapter; Planned Parenthood Advocates of Indiana; Planned Parenthood of Indiana; Purdue Council on Adolescent Pregnancy; Sexual Health Research Working Group—Indiana University; STEP-UP; Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne; VOX, Purdue University chapter; and Women Studies Organization.

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