

Parents,

Be Informed and Ready with a Response:

Instructions to educators on "how to deal with the opposition"—e.g. caring parents whom they characterize as ignorant reactionaries or religious fanatics. With time, a parent can tell which educators have been duly indoctrinated because the responses are monotonously predictable. But Parents can present these winning arguments:

"You don't really believe there is a conspiracy, do you?"

No. Conspiracies occur in secret. This agenda is quite open.

"You don't trust us."

You're right. Please prove me wrong.

"These decisions are best made by trained educators, not parents or citizens."

Oh? We pay your salary and you are serving our wishes while teaching our children.

"A lot of our kids are sexually active so they need this information."

What information? How will it help them? What are your specific goals for this program? Explicit information has probably helped cause their sexual activity. Do you cater to those with lower standards? How are you supporting students with higher ideals?)

"Teens won't accept the abstinence message."

If they won't accept a clear message of the positive values of abstinence, what makes you think they will accept a contraceptive message? In fact, teens do want an abstinence message.

"They need to protect themselves."

The best protection is abstinence.

"Yes, abstinence is best. But some teens need to know about birth control."

The best birth control is self-control. Birth control has no place among unmarried teens. If you discuss contraception in a class, you send a mixed message to teens and offend families who do not believe chemical birth control is healthy.)

"Teens need to know the facts."

Yes, but facts alone have not reduced teen promiscuity, pregnancy, abortion or AIDS. Giving facts without values is like teaching a teen how to drive without teaching the rules of the road.

"Teaching premarital abstinence will offend parents who are co-habiting."

If we accept that reasoning, we cannot teach right or wrong about such things as stealing, drug abuse, lying, because someone might be offended.

"The state says we must provide this education."

Show me the written statute or rule. Who is ultimately accountable for this program? You are "passing the buck."

"If you have raised your child with high standards, what are you worried about?"

Your teaching should support those standards, not alienate students from parental values. High ideals could help those who haven't learned them at home.

"Sex education is reducing teen pregnancy."

Show me a valid study that proves it. Actually it is abortion that is reducing teen pregnancy and child-birth.

"You want to impose your morality on the kids."

Yes, it is much better for them than immorality — much safer and less costly for taxpayers.

"We do teach abstinence."

No, you teach it is one of many options, all equal in value. You and I both know that some choices are better than others. Immature, vulnerable students who are not yet adult, want se-cure absolute values from parents and other caring adults.