

Advocates for Youth's communications strategy is designed to expose adolescent reproductive and sexual health policies that promote ultra-conservative ideology as opposed to public health science. During the past year, Advocates' media outreach resulted in stories on issues such as abstinence-only, the President's misguided budget priorities, the HPV vaccine, and emergency contraception in newspapers and on radio shows around the country. As one strategy, Advocates conducted interviews to highlight the absurd change in federal regulations encouraging abstinence-only funding grantees to target unmarried people as old as 29. Staff published the ad that appears below in the *Washington Post Express*, *Roll Call*, and *Ms. Magazine* to expose the new regulations as ridiculous, unrealistic, and ideological.



Abstinence-only education for 29-year olds?

Some things just don't fit.

The federal government recently issued new abstinence-only regulations—allowing states to target unmarried adults up to age 29!

Absurd? Yes! But, that's not all that's wrong with these programs. On April 13, 2007, a congressionally-mandated evaluation of abstinence-only-until-marriage programs was finally published.

Its conclusion: Abstinence-only education does not work!

With the U.S. teen birth rate the highest in the industrialized world, with 45 million Americans still lacking health insurance and with Walter Reed Army Medical Center crumbling around our veterans, can Congress really afford to waste another \$1.5 billion to preach abstinence to 29-year olds?

Tell Congress: End funding for failed abstinence-only programs.

www.advocatesforyouth.org/endfunding