

ACTION ALERT! STATE HEALTH MODEL CURRICULA

Note: This special insert within the December 1998 TSC newsletter is for Ohio individuals only. The special update is in regards to the Ohio Comprehensive Health Model. Information was abstracted from several sources including Focus on the Family *Citizen Issues Alert* and the Ohio Pro-Family Alliance.

Ohio: Stealth Sex-Ed Program Looms Over State is the headline of the Focus on the Family Urgent Citizen Issues Alert dated November 25, 1998. What is this grave concern of citizens across Ohio?

Focus on the Family has stated the facts:

Ohio parents could soon find their children subjected to a lewd, "anything goes" sex-education program – unless they act quickly.

For several years now, officials from the Ohio Department of Education have been quietly developing a prototype sex-ed program that would condone early sexual activity, as well as many types of sexual behaviors that are offensive to most parents.

This "model competency program," based on information provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States [SIECUS] has not yet been adopted. Yet if the program goes unchecked, Ohio schoolchildren would be subjected to a number of inappropriate "lessons."

For example, students would learn:

- *how to put on a condom, using a wooden model of a penis;*
- *how to use oral-sex devices and so-called "female condoms";*
- *that homosexuality and abortion are acceptable options for teens; and*
- *that "outercourse" behaviors, such as heavy petty, are normal and acceptable for children beginning in the 6th grade.*

The goal of the program is just as offensive and controversial. Instead of attempting to reduce teenage sexual activity, the program would focus on goals such as reducing the number of sexual partners and boosting the number of teens who can correctly – and frequently – use condoms during intercourse. The program ignores teens who choose abstinence until marriage.

The Ohio Department of Health has budgeted funds to establish school-based health clinics that would support these sex-ed programs by providing on-site contraceptive services, sexual-identity and alternative-lifestyle counseling, as well as abortion referrals.

Gov. George Voinovich in October asked the Ohio Board of Education for a complete review of the program, and to immediately cease any further development until the review was completed. Instead, the board ignored the governor's request and denied that any CDC curricula were used in the program. This is a direct affront to the authority of a leader elected by the people of Ohio – and to every parent who counts on that leadership to protect their children from programs like this.

Currently in Ohio Revised Code [3313.60], the areas of Health education instruction required are nutrition; harmful effect and legal restrictions of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco; venereal

disease; and personal safety and assault prevention (with the last two listed exempt upon parent or guardian written request.)

This Model Health Curriculum, which extends instruction far beyond what is currently required by law, would not only become the course of study for the health classes in the State of Ohio, but the next step would most likely be a mandated health proficiency for high school graduation. Consider the following quote from the Ohio Department of Education/Ohio Department of Health's "cooperative agreement" with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention submitted 9/10/97 for project period 12/1/97 through 11/3/98:

"Ohio presently does not require a proficiency test [in health]. Local districts, however, will be required to conduct and report the results of standardized, district-wide health and physical education assessment after the State Board of Education adopts "'Ohio's Model Competency-Based Health and Physical Education Program.' To assist local school districts with this standardized, district-wide assessment, ODE, which has been an active participant in CCSSE's Health SCASS project, will make available to local districts the Health CD-ROMs with the four types of assessment items..."

After consultation with the Board of Trustees members, TSC Inc. of Ohio has included its support of the following letter dated December 2, 1998 and written by the Ohio Pro-Family Alliance (PO Box 60, Bethel OH 45106) to the Members of the General Assembly with a copy also being sent to Governor Voinovich, Bob Taft, and State School Board Members.

Citizens who have served as eyewitnesses of the development of Ohio Department of Education's (ODE's) Proposed Model of Health, the Center for Disease Control's (CDC's) Programs-That-Work training, and the Ohio Department of Health's (ODH's) School-Based Clinics initiative, have enough documented evidence to cause us grave concern. Key documents, statements made behind closed doors, and procedural tactics are critical for you to understand. We believe it is imperative that we share our concerns, a portion of the evidence, and our recommendations. Please read the attached document that we have prepared in response to Dr. John Goff's [State Superintendent of Public Instruction] October 29, 1998 letter to you. The document will address the:

- *Intent and implementation of the Proposed Pre-K-12 Competency-Based Model of Health and Physical Education*
- *Content of the Centers for Disease Control's Programs-That-Work (PTW) and the training methods of such programs*
- *Relationship between the Proposed Model of Health and the PTW.*

- Department of Education and Department of Health as a federal "infrastructure" and the school-based clinic connection
- Strong probability that local control will be lost or severely weakened.

We urge you to act today. Stop the Proposed Model of Health and the CDC's PTW activities. Initiate a legislative investigation on the five issues above. Thank you.

Respectfully,

[Signature and names of Ohio pro-family organizations]

Additional documentation will be attached to the letter, however, limited space does not allow the entire documentation to be included in this article (Anyone wanting to have copies of the entire documentation can contact TSC). The conclusion of the documented materials does ask the following:

Concerned families of Ohio have more than enough evidence to cause great concern! We want more local control, not less. We find extremely offensive the PTW curricula with ODE's aggressive and manipulative techniques to invade every Ohio community. We demand that you:

1. Stop all Model of Health and CDC/PTW activities AND
2. Initiate a legislative investigation (using pro-family legislators) to investigate the five issues as stated in the first paragraph...

TAKE ACTION: Since April 1996 TSC has kept its membership informed with periodic updates regarding the Ohio Model Health Curriculum. Now is the crucial time for everyone – absolutely everyone to get involved in stopping this horrendous curriculum that could be placed into our schools within a very short period of time. The information regarding where in the process and the final actions of the General Assembly, the Ohio Department of Education, and the State Board of Education changes almost daily. By the time you receive this newsletter the process could be at a different level, so consider the following recommended actions:

- **PRAY!**
- Photocopy and distribute this information to everyone you know who cares about issues affecting their families.
- For the latest information on the current alert contact Melanie Elsey (Lzjoshua@aol.com), Cincinnati Right to Life (513-522-0820), or Roundtable (1-800-522-VOTE).
- Stay informed. Get connected with a pro-family organization who can disseminate the latest information by phone chains, fax, and/or email.
- Call your representative and senator and urge them to put an immediate halt to this "model competency program", and to support a pro-family legislative investigation.
- Call Gov. George Voinovich's office (614-644-0868). Urge him to stop this program and to support a pro-family legislative investigation. Also call Gov-elect Bob Taft (614-995-0680) with the same request.
- Contact your State Board of Education member. Urge them to put an immediate halt to this model curriculum.
- To find out the name, phone number of your State Board of Education member; your State Representative; and/or State Senator, call Ohio Roundtable at 1-800-522-VOTE.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

October 31, 1998: The TSC Ohio Chapter Board of Trustees met in Wooster, Ohio, for their regularly scheduled Fall meeting. The following are highlights of some of the items that were discussed.

1. The Board of Trustees accepted the resignation of TSC Board member Doug Shamp who has served the Ohio Board of Trustees for six years. The Board of Trustees approved the name of Juanita Sattler to fill the open seat on the Board of Trustees.
2. The Board of Trustees discussed strategies to get TSC members more actively involved.
3. The Board of Trustees approved the 1997-98 fiscal report and the following 1998-99 budget:

Miscellaneous Fees	\$ 500.00
Office Administration	500.00
Postage	1500.00
Public Relations	
Printing	1500.00
Promotion	500.00
Telephone	<u>250.00</u>
Total	\$4250.00

1997-98 TSC of OHIO FISCAL REPOT

Balance - September 1, 1997		\$963.83
Receipts:		
Contributions:	330.00	
T-shirts	82.00	
Memberships:		
'97-'98	1185.00	
'98-'99	2210.00	
Interest	30.56	\$3837.56
Disbursements:		
Miscellaneous	111.85	
National Dues		
'97-'98	237.00	
'98-'99	442.00	
Office Administration	278.61	
Postage	1138.13	
Public Relations		
Advertising	200.00	
Printing	820.94	
Promotion	90.00	
Telephone	140.93	\$3459.46
Balance - August 31, 1998		\$1341.93

Please note: There were a large number of membership renewals paid prior to September 1, 1998. Thank you for helping the Board have a better picture of what our finances would be like for the 1998-99 fiscal year. TSC does not solicit additional contributions beyond memberships, but does appreciate any additional contributions received throughout the year.