

## **Your Help is Needed NOW**

**On May 12, the Fairfax County School Board will vote to: 1) encourage 10<sup>th</sup> graders to use the morning-after pill to prevent pregnancy** (some researchers conclude that post-coital drugs act principally to terminate a viable pregnancy by interfering with the endometrium) **and 2) redefine abstinence as everything except intercourse.**

The School Board will approve two pamphlets on birth control for 10<sup>th</sup> grade students in Family Life Education (FLE) titled *Birth Control Facts* and *Birth Control Choices*. These expand the current FLE information on birth control. The pamphlets will be distributed in class and collected so they cannot be taken home and shown to parents.

The following information is contained in the pamphlets:

- “Abstinence” is redefined to a range of action “**from no sexual touching to everything except intercourse**,” and is touted as 100% effective at preventing pregnancy as long as no semen enters the vagina. (So oral sex is abstinence!)
- Both pamphlets give prominence to Emergency Birth Control or the Morning-After Pill as a back-up to other birth control methods. They encourage 15- and 16-year-old children to “**ask for a supply of pills to have in case an emergency happens.**” A telephone number is listed for students to call to get a referral for a doctor in their area.
- Students are told to “**choose a method you like**” for birth control and instructed to decide “**what’s right for me.**?”
- Religious or moral concerns are addressed by asking students, “**Does this method fit with my religious beliefs?**” Students are not told that some methods are abortifacients.

## **YOUR ACTION IS NEEDED NOW**

**Please take a moment to do one of the following:**

- E-mail the School Board at [schoolboardmembers@fcps.edu](mailto:schoolboardmembers@fcps.edu).
- Call the School Board at 703-246-3646 to leave a message or sign up to speak before the board on the 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Write the School Board at 10700 Page Avenue, Fairfax, VA, 22030.

**Tell the School Board to vote against using the Birth Control pamphlets.**

You can view the pamphlets by going to

<http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/Public?OpenFrameSet>. Click on April 4, 2005 Work Session. Click on 43. Instruction, Special Services... Click on 43.02 Family Life. You will see on the right a number of PDF files, click on “Birth Control Facts” and “Birth Control Choices.”

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