

## **AB 2141 Family Planning – Family Communication**

### Talking Points

1. AB 2141 is an attempt to decrease the number of teenage pregnancies through state funding of private non-profit organizations that educate, equip and train parents and parental figures to discuss sexual intercourse and choices regarding sexual intercourse with their children. The authors of AB 2141 state:

*Research shows that teenagers who feel comfortable communicating openly about sexuality with their parents, their guardians, or other adult mentors are more likely to delay sexual activity, are less likely to engage in risky sexual behavior, and are better equipped to have healthy relationships than other teenagers.*

Since teenagers are more likely to “delay sexual activity” and are less likely to engage in risky sexual behavior if they are comfortable talking with their parents or guardians, the authors of AB 2141 believe that if they fund organizations to *equip* parents and guardians to discuss sexual activity and behavior with their children, then the parents or guardians will be more comfortable *discussing* sex with their children and will be more likely to influence them in making the decision to delay engaging in sexual activity.

2. AB 2141’s language appears to be crafted as an attempt to exclude faith-based clinics or crisis-pregnancy centers from receiving funding. For instance, providers are required to offer a “comprehensive range of services to meet the health ... needs of minors,” which could exclude programs that do not refer participants for abortion.
3. Further, while educators are required to present accurate medical information, that data must also be “objective.” For example, if a program educator were discussing abortion, she would, in all likelihood, not be allowed to discuss the negative side-effects of or arguments against abortion. Generally, the overall thrust of AB 2141 makes it clear the training parents or guardians receive will be values-free and contraception-oriented.
4. Finally, AB 2141 is simply not a wise use of state funds. Generally, state programs to affect personal behavior and assist family relationships have not been successful, or not nearly as successful as faith-based and other values-oriented programs.