

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President:

Thank you for your steadfast leadership in being a steward of hard-working Americans' tax dollars, by using your veto pen to prevent irresponsible spending priorities from being enacted into law in the Fiscal Year 2008 Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Appropriations bill (Labor-HHS). We ask that you continue to exercise fiscal responsibility when you are presented with the Democratic Omnibus Appropriations bill in the near future.

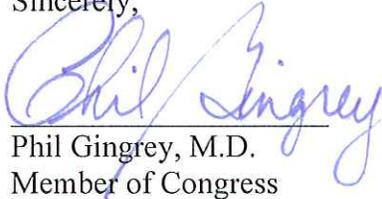
We agree that the Labor-HHS bill you vetoed contained a number of misguided priorities for domestic spending. At the same time, this same bill contained some properly funded programs that will greatly benefit the country as a whole – specifically for the Community Based Abstinence Education program. This program received \$136.6 million in federal funds, which represents an increase of \$28 million from the previous year and equals your initial budget request. We ask that you insist on the funding levels for this critical program.

It is imperative that we send our children one solid message of personal responsibility and self-respect through abstinence education. Teenage sexual activity is a major problem confronting the nation and has led to a rising incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, emotional and psychological injuries, a rising divorce rate, and out-of-wedlock childbearing. Researchers at the Centers for Disease Control have acknowledged the important role that abstinence education played this year in the national teenage pregnancy rate reaching an all-time low.

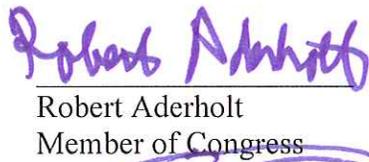
We believe that sex education in general is a topic to be discussed by parents in a family environment. However, if we are obligated to teach contraceptive education in schools, then we need to take advantage of that opportunity to emphasize the importance and value of abstinence. Through proper education, we can reduce teen pregnancy and sexual activity, but we can also strengthen the value and purpose of family. Through continued federal support of this program, we can ensure that future generations can exercise increased personal responsibility and a continued decrease in sexually-transmitted diseases and teenage pregnancy.

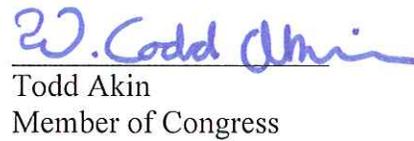
Mr. President, we again applaud your leadership throughout this year on controlling federal spending. We urge you to continue in this vein on any potential omnibus and insist on preserving the vitality of the Community Based Abstinence Program.

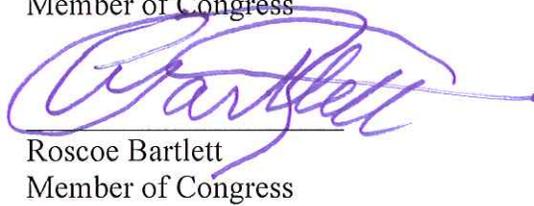
Sincerely,

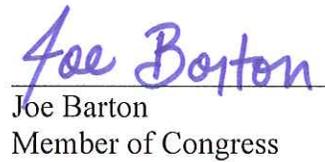

Phil Gingrey, M.D.
Member of Congress


Joe Pitts
Member of Congress


Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress

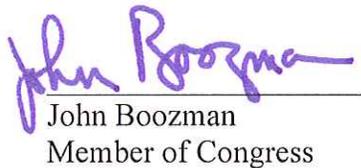

Todd Akin
Member of Congress

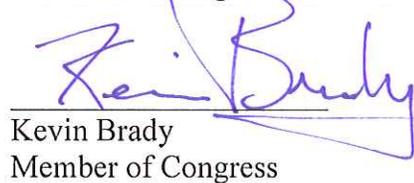

Roscoe Bartlett
Member of Congress

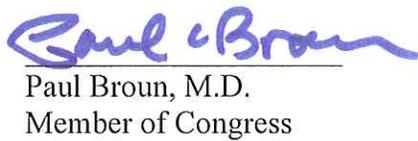

Joe Barton
Member of Congress


Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

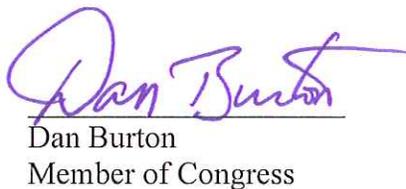

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

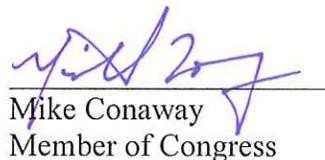

John Boozman
Member of Congress


Kevin Brady
Member of Congress


Paul Broun, M.D.
Member of Congress


Henry Brown
Member of Congress


Dan Burton
Member of Congress


Mike Conaway
Member of Congress

Jack Kingston
Jack Kingston
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John Kline
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Michael T. McCaul
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Patrick McHenry
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Jeff Miller
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Marilyn Musgrave
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Stevan Pearce
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Mike Pence
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Chip Pickering
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Peter Roskam
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Nathan Deal

Nathan Deal
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J. Randy Forbes

J. Randy Forbes
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Virginia Foxx

Virginia Foxx
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Louie Gohmert

Louie Gohmert
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Ralph M. Hall

Ralph Hall
Member of Congress

Wally Herger

Wally Herger
Member of Congress

Duncan Hunter

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

Jim Jordan

Jim Jordan
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John Doolittle

John Doolittle
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Luis Fortuño

Luis Fortuño
Member of Congress

Trent Franks

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Virgil Goode

Virgil Goode
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Jeb Hensarling

Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress

Pete Hoekstra

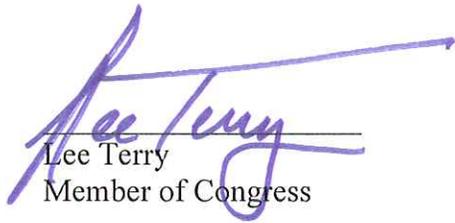
Pete Hoekstra
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson

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Member of Congress

Steve King

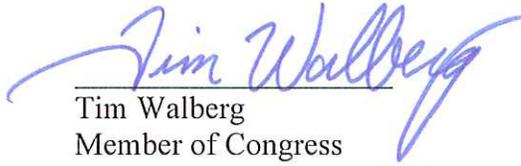
Steve King
Member of Congress



Lee Terry
Member of Congress



Todd Tiahrt
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Cc: Josh Bolten, White House Chief of Staff
Jim Nussle, Director of the Office of Management and Budget