

Amendment 2824 – Strikes the creation of a new \$375 million government program intended to promote personal and financial responsibility.

Among the new government programs created by the Senate health care bill is an initiative costing \$375 million over five years intended to promote personal and financial responsibility.

This government “responsibility” program duplicates existing government programs, adds hundreds of millions of dollars to the national debt, and creates perverse financial incentives for states to encourage abortion to receive additional federal funds. In short, there is nothing responsible about the new responsibility program.

This amendment would strike the new program and save \$375 million.

The Initiatives Paid For By This New Program Duplicate Existing Government Programs, Many Which Have Failed To Demonstrate Effectiveness, That Cost Billions Of Dollars A Year

The Senate health care bill creates at least 70 new government programs. One of these is the Personal Responsibility Education program makes available \$75 million in new spending annually for five years for a total cost of \$375 million.

According to the bill’s text, the program is intended to educate adolescents on a number of topics including:

- Abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS;
- Healthy relationships, such as positive self-esteem and relationship dynamics, friendships, dating, romantic involvement, marriage, and family interactions;
- Adolescent development, such as the development of healthy attitudes and values about adolescent growth and development, body image, racial and ethnic diversity, and other related subjects;
- Financial literacy;

- Parent-child communication;
- Educational and career success, such as developing skills for employment preparation, job seeking, independent living, financial self-sufficiency, and workplace productivity; and
- Healthy life skills, such as goal-setting, decision making, negotiation, communication and interpersonal skills, and stress management.

While these skills are important for young people to learn, parents and teachers, not the federal government, are the best source of this knowledge.

In fact, the federal government already provides billions of dollars every year for efforts that duplicate all of these initiatives contained within the new Personal Responsibility Education program. In 2009, the federal government appropriates \$10.5 billion for programs intended to support adolescent family life, abstinence, prevention of teen pregnancy, family planning, financial education, youth training, and other initiatives similar or identical to the Personal Responsibility Education program.

Many of the existing programs have not even proven to be effective.

For example, the program provides federal funding for education on “dating” to prevent HIV/AIDS and other STDs. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which would administer this program, has previously funded similar programs intended to prevent HIV/AIDS that provided instruction on flirting and how to have relationships with prostitutes.

- On August 13, 2003, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded a class entitled “Flirt, Date, Score” at the Stop AIDS Project of San Francisco which was advertised as “Want to flirt with greater finesse and date with more confidence? Who doesn't? Share your expertise and hear how others are successful in meeting guys and staying safe today.”¹
- On February 10, 2004, the CDC funded another Stop AIDS Project dating workshop that was advertised as instructing participants how “to flirt with

¹ STOP AIDS Project of San Francisco website, <http://www.stopaids.org/programs/events/index.html> , accessed August 13, 2003.

greater finesse.” The event was entitled “Got Love? #2 - Flirt / Date / Score.”²

- Positive Force in San Francisco, which also offered flirting classes, received \$1 million a year from the CDC.³

The new Personal Responsibility Education program also provides federal funding for education on “relationship dynamics” to prevent HIV/AIDS and other STDs. Again, the federal government already funds education programs on all types of relationships.

One such program that made headlines was an event entitled “Men for Hire,” which featured speaker was Joseph Itiel, who, it was advertised, “presents practical tips and covers the seven guidelines for safe and friendly relations with escorts.” Mr. Itiel has authored a number of books, including *A Consumer’s Guide to Male Hustlers* (which purports to “acquaint readers who have a vigorous sexual appetite with a resource”) and *Sex Workers As Virtual Boyfriends*. Shortly after the event, he released *Escort Tales: The Trophy Boy and Other Stories*. According to the *Bay Area Reporter*, Mr. Itiel argues sleeping with a sex worker is a way to engage in safe sex, “If you pick up a sex worker, you have complete control of the situation. ... If you go to a sex club, you can have sex with say 10 people who had sex with another 10 people. If you go to a sex worker, you couldn’t afford to see someone 10 times a day. Plus, he has less sex and is exposed to fewer diseases, logically.”⁴

Not surprisingly, reviews of these programs have failed to demonstrate their effectiveness.

CDC’s HIV/AIDS prevention grants were found to have “widespread deficiencies,” according to a HHS Inspector General (IG) report. The IG noted that the programs demonstrated a pattern of mismanagement, a lack of oversight, and in at least one documented example, a willingness of a CDC employee to make up grantee accomplishments simply to keep his projects running. According to the IG, many such programs “lacked clear, specific

² STOP AIDS Project of San Francisco website, <http://www.stopaids.org/programs/events/index.html> , accessed February 2004.

³ John McCaslin. “Inside the Beltway; Chocolate and condoms,” The Washington Times, August 13, 2002.

⁴ “CDC Off Center,” Senate Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security Minority Office, June 2007, http://coburn.senate.gov/public_files/CDCOffCenter1000.pdf .

objectives providing a basis for assessing grantees' accomplishments, and, in fact, [some] grants contained no objectives at all."⁵

The statistics speak for themselves:

- The number of new HIV infections occurring in the U.S. has not decreased in over 15 years despite the government spending hundreds of billions of dollars every year on prevention programs. CDC estimates that approximately 56,300 Americans are now newly infected with HIV in a single year.⁶
- One in four teenage girls is infected with a STD, according to a new study published in the journal *Pediatrics*. The research found that 24.1 percent of girls between the ages of 14 and 19 tested positive for at least one STD, including human papillomavirus (HPV), herpes, trichomoniasis, and chlamydia.⁷
- CDC estimates that there are approximately 19 million newly acquired STDs each year in the U.S. and almost half of those are among young people 15 to 24 years of age. The largest number of reported cases of both chlamydia and gonorrhea is among girls between 15 and 19 years of age, followed closely by young women 20 to 24 years of age.⁸

While these statistics demonstrate that effective initiatives are needed to prevent STDs and other health risks, to our youth, it is irresponsible for Congress to create another costly government program that duplicates existing programs that are not working without improving, consolidating, or eliminating the existing programs.

A Government That Amassed A \$12 Trillion Debt Has No Credibility Lecturing Its Citizens About Personal And Financial Responsibility

⁵ "Management of HIV/AIDS Prevention Grants by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention," HHS IG, September 2005, A-04-03-08011, <http://www.oig.hhs.gov/oas/reports/region4/40308011.pdf> .

⁶ "HIV/AIDS Basic Statistics," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, February 26, 2009, <http://www.cdc.gov/hiv/topics/surveillance/basic.htm#hivest> .

⁷ Jennifer Warner. "1 in 4 Teen Girls Has an STD; Sexually Transmitted Infections Surface Soon After Teenage Girls Become Sexually Active," WebMD.com, <http://www.webmd.com/sex/news/20091123/1-in-4-teen-girls-have-sti>.

⁸ "Sexually Transmitted Diseases in the United States, 2008; National Surveillance Data for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, November 16, 2009, <http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats08/trends.htm> .

Among the initiatives that would be promoted by the federal government through the new Personal Responsibility Education program are “financial literacy” and “financial self-sufficiency.”

The federal government, which is now \$12 trillion in debt and riddled with hundreds of billions of dollars waste, mismanagement, duplication, and ineffective programs, has little credibility educating Americans about financial responsibility.

The Personal Responsibility Education program will be paid for by borrowing money from our grandchildren and foreign countries and will be duplicating numerous existing government initiatives that have failed to achieve their goals. There is *nothing* responsible about that.

The federal government is now borrowing 43 cents for every dollar that it spends. That means that the government will borrow over \$150 billion over the next five years to pay for this program.

This debt will be added to the nearly \$12 trillion already borrowed by the government. And since the federal government has nearly reached its debt limit set by law, Congress and the President are already planning to increase the national debt limit to pay for the 70 new programs, including Personal Responsibility Education, created by the Senate health care bill.

Despite its interest in creating a new government program to promote personal and financial responsibility, Congress has grown more and more irresponsible handling the nation’s finances:

- The 2009 fiscal year federal budget deficit set an all-time record of \$1.42 trillion. That was \$958 billion above the 2008 deficit, the previous record.
- October was the 13th straight month the federal government spent more than it brought in — another record—and it also marked the fifth-largest monthly deficit ever.
- The Obama Administration expects this year’s deficit to reach \$1.5 trillion, which would mark the third straight record annual deficit. The Administration projects the deficit will remain above \$1 trillion in 2011 and will never drop below \$739 billion over the next decade.

- In relation to the overall economy, the 2009 deficit was 9.9 percent of the total gross domestic product, the highest level since 1945.⁹

Furthermore, important retirement programs like Medicare and Social Security are on the verge of bankruptcy. Medicare is expected to run out of money and become insolvent in 2017. Social Security will run out of money in 2020 and will no longer be able to pay retirees full benefits by 2037.¹⁰ Other important government programs Americans rely on nearly every day, such as the Highway Trust Fund and the U.S. Postal Service, are also spending more than they are bringing in with revenues.

Clearly, Congress and the federal government are in no position to lecture or educate Americans about responsibility, especially fiscal responsibility.

The Program's Requirement For States To Reduce Birth Rates Creates A Federal Financial Incentive To Promote Abortion

To receive federal grants from the Personal Responsibility Education program, states must establish goals and a plan for reducing "birth rates" for "youth populations."

There is nothing in the bill text that prohibits the promotion of abortion to reduce birth rates and the language even seems to suggest the use of abortion.

Specifically, the bill requires goals for reducing "birth rates" for "pregnant youth who are under 21 years of age" along with other youth populations that "have special circumstances."¹¹ Unless the bill is referring to future births by pregnant

⁹ MARTIN CRUTSINGER and DANIEL WAGNER. "Federal deficit sets October record of \$176.4B," Associated Press, November 12, 2009, <http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5iWWPT8cAUUpUCsmOZoABze-6XhwTAD9BU69F81>.

¹⁰ "2009 Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds," May 12, 2009, <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/ReportsTrustFunds/downloads/tr2009.pdf>.

¹¹ (C) APPLICATION REQUIRED TO ACCESS ALLOTMENTS-

(i) IN GENERAL- A State shall not be paid from its allotment for a fiscal year unless the State submits an application to the Secretary for the fiscal year and the Secretary approves the application (or requires changes to the application that the State satisfies) and meets such additional requirements as the Secretary may specify.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS- The State application shall contain an assurance that the State has complied with the requirements of this section in preparing and submitting the application and shall include the following as well as such additional information as the Secretary may require:

(I) Based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics, the most recent pregnancy rates for the State for youth ages 10 to 14 and youth ages 15 to 19 for

girls, which it clearly does not state, the only obvious manner to reduce birth rates among those who are already pregnant is abortion.

Regardless of the intent, there are no provisions that would prohibit abortion from being used to reach the goals required by states to be eligible for millions of dollars of federal funds. Clearly, this creates a perverse financial incentive for states to promote abortion among young girls.

which data are available, the most recent birth rates for such youth populations in the State for which data are available, and trends in those rates for the most recently preceding 5-year period for which such data are available.

`(II) State-established goals for reducing the pregnancy rates and birth rates for such youth populations.

`(III) A description of the State's plan for using the State allotments provided under this section to achieve such goals, especially among youth populations that are the most high-risk or vulnerable for pregnancies or otherwise have special circumstances, including youth in foster care, homeless youth, youth with HIV/AIDS, pregnant youth who are under 21 years of age, mothers who are under 21 years of age, and youth residing in areas with high birth rates for youth.

SEC. 2953. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION.

Title V of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), as amended by sections 2951 and 2952(c), is amended by adding at the end the following:

SEC. 513. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION.

(a) Allotments to States-

(1) AMOUNT-

(A) IN GENERAL- For the purpose described in subsection (b), subject to the succeeding provisions of this section, for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014, the Secretary shall allot to each State an amount equal to the product of--

(i) the amount appropriated under subsection (f) for the fiscal year and available for allotments to States after the application of subsection (c); and

(ii) the State youth population percentage determined under paragraph (2).

(B) MINIMUM ALLOTMENT-

(i) IN GENERAL- Each State allotment under this paragraph for a fiscal year shall be at least \$250,000.

(ii) PRO RATA ADJUSTMENTS- The Secretary shall adjust on a pro rata basis the amount of the State allotments determined under this paragraph for a fiscal year to the extent necessary to comply with clause (i).

(C) APPLICATION REQUIRED TO ACCESS ALLOTMENTS-

(i) IN GENERAL- A State shall not be paid from its allotment for a fiscal year unless the State submits an application to the Secretary for the fiscal year and the Secretary approves the application (or requires changes to the application that the State satisfies) and meets such additional requirements as the Secretary may specify.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS- The State application shall contain an assurance that the State has complied with the requirements of this section in preparing and submitting the application and shall include the following as well as such additional information as the Secretary may require:

(I) Based on data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics, the most recent pregnancy rates for the State for youth ages 10 to 14 and youth ages 15 to 19 for which data are available, the most recent birth rates for such youth populations in the State for which data are available, and trends in those rates for the most recently preceding 5-year period for which such data are available.

(II) State-established goals for reducing the pregnancy rates and birth rates for such youth populations.

(III) A description of the State's plan for using the State allotments provided under this section to achieve such goals, especially

among youth populations that are the most high-risk or vulnerable for pregnancies or otherwise have special circumstances, including youth in foster care, homeless youth, youth with HIV/AIDS, pregnant youth who are under 21 years of age, mothers who are under 21 years of age, and youth residing in areas with high birth rates for youth.

`(2) STATE YOUTH POPULATION PERCENTAGE-

`(A) IN GENERAL- For purposes of paragraph (1)(A)(ii), the State youth population percentage is, with respect to a State, the proportion (expressed as a percentage) of--

`(i) the number of individuals who have attained age 10 but not attained age 20 in the State; to

`(ii) the number of such individuals in all States.

`(B) DETERMINATION OF NUMBER OF YOUTH- The number of individuals described in clauses (i) and (ii) of subparagraph (A) in a State shall be determined on the basis of the most recent Bureau of the Census data.

`(3) AVAILABILITY OF STATE ALLOTMENTS- Subject to paragraph (4)(A), amounts allotted to a State pursuant to this subsection for a fiscal year shall remain available for expenditure by the State through the end of the second succeeding fiscal year.

`(4) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS FROM STATE ALLOTMENTS TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS AND ENTITIES IN NONPARTICIPATING STATES-

`(A) GRANTS FROM UNEXPENDED ALLOTMENTS- If a State does not submit an application under this section for fiscal year 2010 or 2011, the State shall no longer be eligible to submit an application to receive funds from the amounts allotted for the State for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014 and such amounts shall be used by the Secretary to award grants under this paragraph for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2014. The Secretary also shall use any amounts from the allotments of States that submit applications under this section for a fiscal year that remain unexpended as of the end of the period in which the allotments are available for expenditure under paragraph (3) for awarding grants under this paragraph.

`(B) 3-year GRANTS-

`(i) IN GENERAL- The Secretary shall solicit applications to award 3-year grants in each of fiscal years 2012, 2013, and 2014 to local organizations and entities to conduct, consistent with subsection (b), programs and activities in States that do not submit an application for an allotment under this section for fiscal year 2010 or 2011.

`(ii) FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS OR CONSORTIA- The Secretary may solicit and award grants under this paragraph to faith-based organizations or consortia.

`(C) EVALUATION- An organization or entity awarded a grant under this paragraph shall agree to participate in a rigorous Federal evaluation.

`(5) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT- No payment shall be made to a State from the allotment determined for the State under this subsection or to a local organization or entity awarded a grant under paragraph (4), if the expenditure of non-federal funds by the

State, organization, or entity for activities, programs, or initiatives for which amounts from allotments and grants under this subsection may be expended is less than the amount expended by the State, organization, or entity for such programs or initiatives for fiscal year 2009.

`(6) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING- A State or local organization or entity receiving funds under this section shall cooperate with such requirements relating to the collection of data and information and reporting on outcomes regarding the programs and activities carried out with such funds, as the Secretary shall specify.

`(b) Purpose-

`(1) IN GENERAL- The purpose of an allotment under subsection (a)(1) to a State is to enable the State (or, in the case of grants made under subsection (a)(4)(B), to enable a local organization or entity) to carry out personal responsibility education programs consistent with this subsection.

`(2) PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION PROGRAMS-

`(A) IN GENERAL- In this section, the term 'personal responsibility education program' means a program that is designed to educate adolescents on--

`(i) both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, consistent with the requirements of subparagraph (B); and

`(ii) at least 3 of the adulthood preparation subjects described in subparagraph (C).

`(B) REQUIREMENTS- The requirements of this subparagraph are the following:

`(i) The program replicates evidence-based effective programs or substantially incorporates elements of effective programs that have been proven on the basis of rigorous scientific research to change behavior, which means delaying sexual activity, increasing condom or contraceptive use for sexually active youth, or reducing pregnancy among youth.

`(ii) The program is medically-accurate and complete.

`(iii) The program includes activities to educate youth who are sexually active regarding responsible sexual behavior with respect to both abstinence and the use of contraception.

`(iv) The program places substantial emphasis on both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy among youth and sexually transmitted infections.

`(v) The program provides age-appropriate information and activities.

`(vi) The information and activities carried out under the program are provided in the cultural context that is most appropriate for individuals in the particular population group to which they are directed.

`(C) ADULTHOOD PREPARATION SUBJECTS- The adulthood preparation subjects described in this subparagraph are the following:

`(i) Healthy relationships, such as positive self-esteem and relationship dynamics, friendships, dating, romantic involvement, marriage, and family interactions.

`(ii) Adolescent development, such as the development of healthy attitudes and values about adolescent growth and development, body image, racial and ethnic diversity, and other related subjects.

`(iii) Financial literacy.

`(iv) Parent-child communication.

`(v) Educational and career success, such as developing skills for employment preparation, job seeking, independent living, financial self-sufficiency, and workplace productivity.

`(vi) Healthy life skills, such as goal-setting, decision making, negotiation, communication and interpersonal skills, and stress management.

`(c) Reservations of Funds-

`(1) GRANTS TO IMPLEMENT INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES- From the amount appropriated under subsection (f) for the fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve \$10,000,000 of such amount for purposes of awarding grants to entities to implement innovative youth pregnancy prevention strategies and target services to high-risk, vulnerable, and culturally under-represented youth populations, including youth in foster care, homeless youth, youth with HIV/AIDS, pregnant women who are under 21 years of age and their partners, mothers who are under 21 years of age and their partners, and youth residing in areas with high birth rates for youth. An entity awarded a grant under this paragraph shall agree to participate in a rigorous Federal evaluation of the activities carried out with grant funds.

`(2) OTHER RESERVATIONS- From the amount appropriated under subsection (f) for the fiscal year that remains after the application of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall reserve the following amounts:

`(A) GRANTS FOR INDIAN TRIBES OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS- The Secretary shall reserve 5 percent of such remainder for purposes of awarding grants to Indian tribes and tribal organizations in such manner, and subject to such requirements, as the Secretary, in consultation with Indian tribes and tribal organizations, determines appropriate.

`(B) SECRETARIAL RESPONSIBILITIES-

`(i) RESERVATION OF FUNDS- The Secretary shall reserve 10 percent of such remainder for expenditures by the Secretary for the activities described in clauses (ii) and (iii).

`(ii) PROGRAM SUPPORT- The Secretary shall provide, directly or through a competitive grant process, research, training and technical assistance, including dissemination of research and information regarding effective and promising practices, providing consultation and resources on a broad array of teen pregnancy prevention strategies, including abstinence and contraception, and developing resources and materials to support the activities of recipients of grants and other State, tribal, and community organizations working to reduce teen pregnancy. In carrying out such functions, the Secretary shall collaborate with a variety of entities that have expertise in the prevention of teen pregnancy, HIV and sexually transmitted infections, healthy relationships, financial literacy, and other topics addressed through the personal responsibility education programs.

`(iii) EVALUATION- The Secretary shall evaluate the programs and activities carried out with funds made available through allotments or grants under this section.

`(d) Administration-

`(1) IN GENERAL- The Secretary shall administer this section through the Assistant Secretary for the Administration for Children and Families within the Department of Health and Human Services.

`(2) APPLICATION OF OTHER PROVISIONS OF TITLE-

`(A) IN GENERAL- Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the other provisions of this title shall not apply to allotments or grants made under this section.

`(B) EXCEPTIONS- The following provisions of this title shall apply to allotments and grants made under this section to the same extent and in the same manner as such provisions apply to allotments made under section 502(c):

`(i) Section 504(b)(6) (relating to prohibition on payments to excluded individuals and entities).

`(ii) Section 504(c) (relating to the use of funds for the purchase of technical assistance).

`(iii) Section 504(d) (relating to a limitation on administrative expenditures).

`(iv) Section 506 (relating to reports and audits), but only to the extent determined by the Secretary to be appropriate for grants made under this section.

`(v) Section 507 (relating to penalties for false statements).

`(vi) Section 508 (relating to nondiscrimination).

`(e) Definitions- In this section:

`(1) AGE-APPROPRIATE- The term 'age-appropriate', with respect to the information in pregnancy prevention, means topics, messages, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group.

`(2) MEDICALLY ACCURATE AND COMPLETE- The term 'medically accurate and complete' means verified or supported by the weight of research conducted in compliance with accepted scientific methods and--

`(A) published in peer-reviewed journals, where applicable; or

`(B) comprising information that leading professional organizations and agencies with relevant expertise in the field recognize as accurate, objective, and complete.

`(3) INDIAN TRIBES; TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS- The terms 'Indian tribe' and 'Tribal organization' have the meanings given such terms in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603).

`(4) YOUTH- The term 'youth' means an individual who has attained age 10 but has not attained age 20.

`(f) Appropriation- For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014. Amounts appropriated under this subsection shall remain available until expended.'