FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 9, 2016

PRESS CONFERENCE AT NEISD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 8961 TESORO DR., SAT 78216 at 5:00 PM, TO PROTECT MIDDLE SCHOOLERS FROM PROGRESSIVE CURRICULUM CONDONING SEX FOR MINORS BY THE SAN ANTONIO FAMILY ASSOCIATION

WHY IS THE NEISD ARBITRARILY DRAWING LINES AND DISRESPECTING THE LINES DRAWN BY PARENTS? The Northeast Independent School District (NEISD) is on the cusp of voting to approve an anti-parent, anti-woman, anti-Judeo-Christian sex education program on May 9, 2016. The Student Health Advisory Council (SHAC) voted on March 29, 2016, to recommend adopting the "Draw The Line/ Respect The Line" curriculum (DTL/RTL) for use in Middle Schools of the NEISD. One has to question why Dr. Brian Gottardy, Superintendent of the NEISD, would support a curriculum, which undercuts parental authority, has no impact on the sexual behavior or risks taken by girls, and teaches values contrary to those held by the Judeo-Christian, Mormon and Muslim community.

To begin with DTL/RTL places the responsibility of determining sexually appropriate conduct upon the student. The curriculum is not a partnership between the school and the parent to support or instill the sexual values of the parents upon the child, but like a "choose your own adventure book" provides options for the student and teaches them they are the one to "draw the line." Such an approach undercuts parental authority and assumes the school must step in and usurp the authority of parents to teach their children sexual values. This is in fact one rationale given by government officials as to why schools must teach sex education and is insulting to parents because it assumes incompetence on their part.

To justify such an intrusion into the parenting process, curriculum like DTL/RTL is presented as "evidenced-based" and values-neutral. Yet, the evidence reveals several areas of concern. Most troubling is a study out of California demonstrated that DTL/RTL had zero impact on reducing the sexually risky behaviors of middle school girls (http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1448347/). Other areas of concern are the curriculum had no impact on condom usage and a high nonparticipation rate in the program due to parental objections. Why is the NEISD ignoring the evidence and considering a curriculum, which fails young women does not accomplish the stated goal of greater condom usage and which violates the values of parents such that they refuse to let their children participate in the program?

Additionally DTL/RTL is anti-Judeo-Christian, anti-Mormon and anti-Muslim. Which is why, every parent, Jew, Christian, Mormon and Muslim ought to refuse to allow their students to participate in the program. The ethics of these faith traditions hold sexual activity in a much higher regard than DTL/RTL and obviously the NEISD. Sex is not a mere physical activity to be engaged in where one takes precautions to avoid unwanted consequences such as STDS and pregnancy and ought to be treated with more respect.

The NEISD ought to do better than adopt a program, which encourages students to draw arbitrary lines and disrespects the beliefs of the parents. Abstinence-only and avoidance programs like the current sex-ed avoidance curriculum "Choosing The Best Path" are a much better option. Abstinence-only programs provide a clear line for middle school students. Such programs are not anti-parent, anti-woman, anti-Judeo-Christian, anti-Mormon or anti-Muslim. Further, such a program when followed by the students is 100% successful in avoiding pregnancy, STDs, and the emotional and psychological harm caused by early sexual activity. The evidence is clear, abstinence does work every time it is used.

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