



National Sex Ed Call-In Day Toolkit



What is the Hatch Amendment?

In 2009, we've made great progress ending harmful and ineffective federal abstinence only programs. The President's Budget eliminated all abstinence only funding and this past June, Congress allowed Title V money (one of the funding streams for ab only programs) to expire. Things have been looking good!

It's prime time to work hard to end ab only streams of funding and implement comprehensive, science based sex education programs. It has appeared Congress was finally catching on to the need for comprehensive sex ed...until now.

The health care reform debate is heating up and amendments are hitting the bills daily. The Senate Finance Committee recently approved two amendments to the health care reform bill—one creating a comprehensive sex education program for the states and the other extending the funding for failed Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program:

- ***The Responsibility Education for Adulthood Training* amendment offered by Chairman Max Baucus (D-MT) provides \$75 million for states for evidence-based, medically accurate, age-appropriate programs** to educate adolescents about both abstinence and contraception for the prevention of unintended pregnancy and STIs, including HIV/AIDS, as well as for research and evaluation. **This can and should stay in the Senate's version of healthcare reform.**
- **Outrageously, the committee also passed an amendment proposed by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) to reinstate \$50 million per year to the failed Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program.** The amendment passed by a razor-thin margin of 12–11 with Democratic Senators Blanche Lincoln (AR) and Kent Conrad (ND) joining all the Republicans.

We need to make sure that health care reform does not become an opportunity for twelve Senators to successfully reintroduce failed ab only programs. **This October's Call-In will be focused on asking our Senators to strip the Hatch Amendment from the Health Care Reform bill.**

Now let's get to work!

Preparing for a Successful Call-In Day!

October 28th has been declared a National Call-In Day for Sex Ed by Choice USA, Sexuality Information Education Council of the U.S., Spiritual Youth for Reproductive Freedom, Advocates for Youth, and Catholics for Choice. The day has arrived, are you ready?!?

October 20th was a National Call-In Day for Health Care. Organizing for America set a goal of making 100,000 calls to Congress. People showed up in a big way and over 300,000 calls were made. It wasn't luck, and it wasn't a coincidence. OFA set a goal but then outreached to over 600,000 people to hit that number!

The goal of the National Call-In Day for Sex Ed is to make 1,000 calls to the U.S. Senate to let them know that young people won't allow them to slip in funding for failed ab-only programs in health care reform legislation. Strip the Hatch Amendment!

Here are a few ideas of ways you can organize a crew of people around Call-In Day:

- Tabling on campus! Bring your petitions and post cards, your cell phones, and some fun.
- Parties – house parties, lunch parties, call parties. Make it a party with food, Halloween candy, and the people will come.
- Keep it low key – Sign people up who said they'd make a call, check in with them the day of with a text reminding them to make the call.
- Leave a message on your voicemail – Everyone who calls you that day will hear it and that way you can reach a few extra people.
- Put in on your Facebook or Twitter status!
- Classroom calls! Ask your prof ahead of time for a few minutes to talk about the call in day, then ask everyone to pull out their cell phones right then and there to make the call.

For the Call-In Day, you will need:

- Goals: 20 calls per campus
- The Background Info on the Hatch Amendment
- Call-In Day Script
- Phones
- The call in number:
- Postcards to gather signatures as you table
- A sign-up sheet to stay in contact with your volunteers
- Stickers, condoms, buttons, etc
- Music, posters, food, anything fun that will attract people

How to make the phone call and the script:

- Dial 1-888-423-5983
- You will be connected to the Capitol Switchboard, once you're connected tell them the state you're calling from and that you would like to speak to one of your Senators. (Each state has two Senators which means you will need to call back to speak to the other Senator's office. Two phone calls need to be made per caller)
- Once you're connected to the office follow the script on the next page.
- When you hang up, find someone to high five! Awesome work standing up for change!

Call-In Day Script

Hi. My name is _____. May I please speak with the Senator's lead aide on health? I am calling to talk about stripping the Hatch Abstinence-only Amendment from the Health Care Reform bill.

(after they transfer you to the right person in the office)

Hi. My name is _____ and I am calling from _____. The Senate Finance Committee recently passed the Hatch Abstinence-only Amendment to Health Care Reform– reinstating \$50 million in funding for failed abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. We need to ensure Congress only funds a comprehensive approach to sex education and does not fund ineffective abstinence-only-until-marriage programs that leave young people at risk. As a constituent of Senator _____, I urge the Senator to work to strip the Hatch Abstinence-only Amendment from the final Health Care Reform bill.

Other Talking Points to Use:

- Health Care Reform is a critically important task for this Congress and it should not be hijacked by ideologically motivated earmarks.
- The Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program expired on June 30th and, at that time, had been refused by nearly half of the states both because of the restrictive nature of the program and the fact that overwhelming evidence has proven these programs to be ineffective and a waste of taxpayer dollars.
- The federal government's own study of the Title V abstinence-only-until-marriage program found these programs to be completely ineffective at their stated goals.
- Moreover, study after study has shown that abstinence-only-until-marriage programs have no effect whatsoever.
- It is time for the federal government to stop wasting taxpayer dollars on these failed programs.
- I stand with the millions of Americans who support teaching both abstinence and contraception. Nationwide polls show that eight-in-ten voters want young people to receive a comprehensive approach to sex education that includes teaching about both abstinence and contraception.

Heading Online to Make Change on October 28th

Social media is power these days. **Use your Facebook message to get more Call-In Day participants** and leverage Twitter to directly message key Senators debating the Senate Finance Bill that includes the Hatch Amendment. **The more of us who Tweet the more the Senators we're targeting will notice we care about this issue. Throughout the day keep your Tweets directed at these legislators and encourage your friends to do the same!**

Facebook

Leading up to the Call-In Day, make sure your status is relevant to sex ed and references the Call-In Day on October 28th. Here are a few you can try. Why not post on Friday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday?

- 1 in 4 young women between the ages of 14 and 19 in the US has an STI. We need REAL, comprehensive sex-ed. Join (Chapter/Organization name) Call-In Day on Wednesday to keep ab-only out of our classrooms. (twitter link to Call-In Day website)
- Keep abstinence only in the history books. Join (Chapter/Organization name) on our Call-In Day this Wednesday and tell our Senators we don't want ab-only funding to stay in healthcare reform. (twitter link to Call-In Day website)
- Get [this clown](#) out of our classrooms. Join (Chapter/Organization name) on our Call-In Day Wednesday. Tell your Senator you want to see the end of ab-only.
- Tomorrow's the big National Comp Sex Ed Call-In Day! Let's get ab-only out of healthcare reform.
- Comprehensive sex ed IS preventative healthcare! Get ab-only out of healthcare reform! Join us for our Call-In Day Wednesday. (Include link)

Twitter

Use Twitter to target the Senators who will keep the Hatch Amendment in or out of healthcare reform. Make sure to add #sexedcallinday at the end of all your tweets so we can track our success!

Here's the Twitter info for the Senators we're targeting:

Reid (NV): @senatorreid

Dodd (CT): @senchrisdodd

Durbin (IL): @dickdurbin

Harkin (IA): @tomharkin

On the 28th, demand they strike down Hatch! Make sure to start your message with @(Senator's Account Name) and end it with #sexedcallinday.

You can craft your own messages but make sure you reference Hatch. Here are a few sample ones you can use. Make sure to tweet all the Senators above!

- (@Senator) Comprehensive sex ed IS preventative healthcare! Get ab-only out of healthcare reform! Please strike down the Hatch Amendment #sexedcallinday
- (@ Senator) Please get [this clown](#) out of my classroom. Strike down the Hatch Amendment! #sexedcallinday
- (@ Senator) 1 in 4 young women in the US has an STI. We need comp sex ed! Please strike down the Hatch Amendment! #sexedcallinday
- (@ Senator) America's youth deserve the truth. Please strike down the Hatch Amendment and keep ab-only out of our classrooms! #sexedcallinday
- (@ Senator) Listen to the youth in (state abbreviation)! We deserve better than ab-only. Please strike down the Hatch Amendment! #sexedcallinday

Sample Letter to the Editor

*Submit this to your campus paper the Monday before your Cal- In day.
This is an awesome way to get more people to join you in calling in!*

Dear Editor:

The healthcare reform debate is dominating the news right now. One thing we're not hearing about is the Hatch Amendment, an amendment that would have a serious impact on our health education. Voted into the Senate Finance Committee's version of healthcare reform 12-11, the Hatch Amendment lays out a \$50 million funding plan to get abstinence-only back into our classrooms.

We need to speak up. This piece of healthcare reform will directly impact our everyday lives and its key we show our legislators we want sex education grounded in fact instead of conservative ideology.

For the past eight years, federal funding for abstinence-only has failed to equip us with the information we need about sex and sexuality. A 2008 CDC study found that 1 in 4 young women between the ages of 14 and 19 in the United States is infected with an STI. Young people aged 13-29 accounted for 34% of new HIV infections in 2007, the largest share of any group.

Abstinence-only education assumes that we all have the same experience with sex and sexuality and disseminates misinformation about contraception, abortion, STIs and pregnancy. We need to make sure it doesn't stay in our classrooms.

The President's Budget eliminated all abstinence only funding and this past June, Congress allowed Title V money (one of the funding streams for ab-only programs) to expire. Democrats in the House and Senate have held firm on keeping it out of health care reform too. Let's make sure 12 Senators don't successfully get bad sex education back into our classrooms!

Join (Chapter Name) for a Call-In Day (tomorrow/this Wed/name day) at (...). Take five to call your Senators and demand they strike the Hatch Amendment Down. Call 1-888-423-5983 and talk to your Senators' office. We will have Call-In scripts on hand if you need talking points!

Be a part of the fight to keep bad sex education out of our classrooms!

See you on (day),

Your Name and Year
Your Organization/Chapter's Name