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**NEW ZOGBY POLL FINDS STRONG SUPPORT FOR SEX EDUCATION
77% of Voters Want Youth to Have Age-Appropriate, Medically Accurate Information**

A recent poll conducted by Zogby International reveals that an overwhelming number of New York voters (77%) believe that “age-appropriate, medically accurate sex education” should be taught in public schools.

The poll, conducted in January 2003, is based on interviews with 834 likely voters chosen at random in New York State. The margin of error is +/-3.5%.

“It’s not easy to be a young person in this society. Kids are bombarded by cultural signals that give confusing messages about sex,” said JoAnn Smith, president and CEO of Family Planning Advocates of New York State. “Responsible sex education gives them the right information to make the right decisions.”

Popular support for sex education crosses geographic lines, the poll found, with 83% of suburban voters favoring sex education in public schools. Some 76% of upstate voters and 74% of New York City voters agreed.

“New Yorkers know that sex education works,” said Scott Heyman, president/CEO of Planned Parenthood Tomkins County and interim president/CEO of Planned Parenthood of the Southern Tier. “This survey sends a clear message to elected officials who are making vital decisions about the information our youth will receive.”

“Parents and kids need support. Keeping information from teens that can safeguard them from unplanned pregnancies and dangerous diseases is irresponsible,” said Karen Pearl, CEO of Planned Parenthood of Nassau County. “Sex education helps youth to get the information they need to protect themselves through difficult years.”

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