

To ensure that Minnesota policies regarding adolescent pregnancy, prevention and parenting are evidence-based, MOAPPP advocated for and monitored the following issues in 2008.

Responsible Family Life and Sexuality Education ([HF3731/SF3349](#)) – a bill to require and establish standards for sexuality education in Minnesota public schools for grades 7-12. Repeals current statute, Section 121A.23 (Programs to Prevent and Reduce the Risks of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Diseases).

The Coalition supported [sex ed bill](#) passed off both the House and Senate floors and was included for the first time in both sides omnibus bills going into conference committee. Despite this advantageous position, the provision was eliminated during conference committee negotiations for the second year in a row. After failed negotiations with the Minnesota Department of Education, the Governor's staff and finally the Minnesota Family Council, bill authors Senator Sandy Pappas and Representative Neva Walker attempted to pass a stand alone bill with [compromise language](#) that would have amended the current STI statute. When this compromise was still met with opposition from the Minnesota Family Council, a final bill was not sent to the Governor.

MN Education Now and Babies Later (ENABL) Program - a statewide competitive grant program supporting communities that encourage postponing sexual involvement and promote abstinence until marriage.

This year the legislature eliminated general fund support for the program. The 2007 health and human services budget had previously cut general fund dollars for this program by \$220,000 annually, leaving the program funded at a level of \$220,000 annually. In addition, Minnesota did not apply for federal abstinence-only-until-marriage funding (Title V section 510) last year. As a result, the program was funded at approximately ¼ of its previous combined state & federal level.

Family Planning and General Prevention ([HF2639/SF2941](#)) A SAFPlan Initiative
As a provision within a larger pharmacy reform bill, nurse dispensing has been expanded to include *all* contraceptives. A previous bill passed last year allowed only for the dispensing of oral contraceptives. Additionally, this bill included an Expedited Partner Therapy provision, allowing providers to treat the sex partners of patients diagnosed with chlamydia or gonorrhea by providing prescriptions or medications to the patient to take to his/her partner without the health care provider first examining the partner.

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Development of a Child Care Advisory Taskforce – A Child Care Works Initiative

[\(HF3376/SF3170\)](#) This bill establishes a Child Care Advisory Task Force of stakeholders to review and make recommendations to the legislature to remove barriers facing families applying for and receiving child care assistance. This bill was passed and signed into law by the Governor.

Related Issues – MDH General Fund Community and Family Health Grants (Supplemental Budget Bill) In the final Supplemental Budget Bill of 2008, MDH general fund community and family health grants were reduced by 1.8%. This will affect grants funded through the state's general fund and will not impact grants funded with TANF dollars. Grants related to family planning and services to adolescent parents that will be affected include Family Planning Special Projects (FPSP) and Positive Alternatives (PAA). MDH will determine how these cuts will be implemented.

Related Issues – Youth Development - After School Community Learning Programs

The Afterschool Community Learning Opportunities Grant program, which was funded for FY 2008-09, was protected this session. This will allow grant recipients to complete their two-year grant cycle with the Minnesota Department of Education.

Federal Issue Update

Abstinence Funding

On April 23rd, 2008 Congress held the first ever oversight hearing focused on the public health and ethical concerns with federally funded abstinence-only-until-marriage programs. Leading medical and sexual health experts from across the country testified on the ineffectiveness of the programs. More than \$175 million is allocated to abstinence-only-until-marriage programs in Fiscal Year 2008.

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[Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy, Prevention and Parenting](#)

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