

Douglas Brooks
Director
Office of the National HIV/AIDS Policy
The White House
Washington, DC 20502

September 2, 2015

Dear Director Brooks:

As members of the federal Sex Ed Coalition, we congratulate the Office of the National AIDS Policy on the recent release of the *National HIV/AIDS Strategy: Updated to 2020*. We recognize and commend the work and effort required to review and consider the wide range of recommendations from stakeholders across the country.

As organizations that support comprehensive sexuality education as a critical tool for providing young people with information and skills to make healthy decisions, we are pleased that the *Updated Strategy* articulates the fact that comprehensive sexuality education “has not been brought to scale across the country,” recognizing the importance of sexuality education and that “[e]ducating young people about HIV before engaging in behaviors that place them at risk for HIV infection should be a priority.” We are particularly pleased at the increased representation of young people and the importance of evidence-based, scientifically-accurate information referenced throughout the *Updated Strategy*.

We continue to believe it is more imperative than ever that young people have access to education programs that provide medically accurate, age-appropriate, and culturally competent information that is relevant to their lived experiences and has been proven to impact healthy sexual behaviors such as condom and contraception use, delay of sexual initiation, partner reduction, and early HIV testing and treatment. We applaud the strong language acknowledging that it is “vital to create learning environments that are safe, inclusive, and destigmatizing, while providing access to a baseline of health information grounded in the benefits of abstinence and delaying or limiting sexual activity, and ensuring that young people who are sexually active have the information and tools they need to prevent infections.”

Again, we thank you for your consideration of our recommendations and their inclusion in the *Updated Strategy*. We look forward to an opportunity to meet with you and your team to further discuss concrete actionable items related to our recommendations and provide guidance and technical support from our collective expertise. We remain dedicated to working with you as the next phase of the *Updated Strategy* is implemented across the next five-years and beyond as partners sharing the common goal of reducing HIV and ensuring the health and well-being of people of all ages.

Sincerely,

30 for 30 Campaign
Advocates for Youth
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
The AIDS Institute
AIDS United
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Sexual Health Association

Coalition for LGBT Health
GLSEN
Healthy Teen Network
Human Rights Campaign
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Coalition of STD Directors
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Women's Law Center
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity