

The Post and Courier
Charleston, SC

Letters to the editor

Posted: Wednesday, June 27, 2012 12:01 a.m.

Abstinence plan

After 17 years and three studies reaffirming the success of the Heritage Keepers Abstinence Education Program, U.S. Health and Human Services approved and added it to its list of evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs.

For the first time there is a proven-effective, evidence based abstinence education program qualified for federal support. Heritage Keepers is the only authentic abstinence program on the list.

School districts, state agencies, faith and community-based organizations and taxpayers who pay for entitlements, have long wanted to use an effective abstinence program but were told they didn't work.

Now they can feel confident implementing the Heritage Keepers Program.

HHS contracted with Mathematica Policy Research and its partner, Child Trends, to conduct an independent, systematic review of programs to reduce teen pregnancy, STIs and associated sexual risk behaviors. The review rates the rigor of program impact studies and describes the strength of evidence supporting different models.

Heritage Community Services, based in Charleston, should be applauded for reaching this milestone.

The Heritage Keepers Abstinence Education program enables school districts to comply with the S.C. Comprehensive Health Education Act, which requires that abstinence from sexual activity and marriage be taught to middle and high school students.

Mary S. McLellan, M.S.
Healthy Family Formation Coalition-SC

Heritage Community Services

The Post and Courier - © 1995-2012 - Evening Post Publishing Co. All rights reserved.