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Ohio governor scorns abstinence programs

- Christian News -



Strickland

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Le JOURNAL CHRETIEN

The pro-abortion governor of Ohio says public school students in his state do not need abstinence-until-marriage education programs. Democratic Governor Ted Strickland has proposed a new budget that would eliminate the \$500,000 the state spends annually on abstinence-based sex education.

Strickland recently told the Western Star newspaper that he does not believe programs encouraging kids to practice abstinence work « in the long run. » However, Linda Harvey of the Columbus-based pro-family group Mission America says the Ohio governor is predictably bowing to pressure from homosexual and pro-abortion lobbyists in his network of friends.

Harvey has authored a pro-abstinence education column for WorldNetDaily titled « Abstinence ? Who Needs It? » She says the pro-abortion and pro-homosexual lobbies have « a ton of money » invested in getting young people sexually active and keeping them sexually active at an early age.

« And that's why they have to continue pushing sex at our kids, » the Mission America representative asserts. Meanwhile, she points out, some liberal HIV-AIDS prevention groups have been particularly vehement in their anti-abstinence education efforts.

« We have one in particular, the AIDS Task Force of Cleveland, » Harvey notes. « The leader of that [group] has been just unbelievably on a campaign to railroad abstinence education out, both of the state and at the national level, » she says. « The kinds of tactics this man is capable of are ... not only unprofessional, but border on ... just extremely questionable. »

According to Harvey, Governor Strickland has been repeating the same talking points that the national homosexual lobby and liberal groups like Advocates for Youth, SIECUS, and Planned Parenthood have been promoting for years. However, she challenges the accuracy of the information these groups have been putting out in efforts to discredit the effectiveness of abstinence education programs.

Teen pregnancy rates in Ohio have declined steadily because of abstinence programs, Harvey contends — not due to increased condom usage, as pro-abortion and HIV prevention groups claim. She says Mission America is denouncing Strickland's plan to eliminate state funding for abstinence-until-marriage education programs.

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