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### **THANK YOU SOUTH CAROLINA LEGISLATORS FOR VOTING FAVORABLY ON H.3435**

The State Alliance for Adolescent Sexual Health (SAASH) wants to thank our courageous legislators for taking a stance in favor of comprehensive sexual health education for students throughout South Carolina. Thank you to Representative B.R. Skelton (R-Pickens) for introducing the bill in January 2013 and to the co- sponsors, Representatives Jenny Horne (R-Dorchester), James Smith (D-Richland), Gilda Cobb-Hunter (D- Orangeburg), Kristopher Crawford (R-Florence), and Patsy Knight (D-Dorchester).

On Tuesday, April 1, 2014 the House Education and Public Works Committee passed H. 3435 by a vote of 10-6, sending the bill to the full South Carolina House of Representatives. H. 3435 will now move on to the full House for consideration. The reforms outlined in H. 3435 will update the 1988 Comprehensive Health Education Act (CHEA) and include more provisions for increased accountability, better teacher training, and ensuring that students are being taught medically accurate information.

South Carolinians have spoken: 84%<sup>1</sup> of registered voters in the state support comprehensive sexual health education being taught in schools. With H.3435, this can be done so that South Carolina's youth learn, in a comprehensive manner, about abstinence as well as the benefits and importance of using contraception to prevent pregnancy and to protect against sexually transmitted diseases.

See our SAASH Call to Action Document for more information and strategic ideas for ways to make a difference: <http://www.saashsc.org/2013/03/saash-call-to-action-resource-document/>

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<sup>1</sup> Oldendick, R. (2011). Summary of Findings for the South Carolina State Survey. Columbia, SC: USC Institute for Public Service and Policy Research.