

SpeakingOut

The First Amendment

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Better sex education needed

New York State has a serious gap in its education system that is leaving young people ill-prepared for healthy relationships. There is no requirement for comprehensive sexual health education, meaning that the quality and quantity of sex education varies between districts, schools and classrooms.

As a primary care doctor I see the impact of common misconceptions. I have had to explain that condoms cannot be reused, and that most contraception cannot prevent sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and this is in the context of rising local rates of STIs – including congenital syphilis.

Over the past decade, Rochester has seen tremendous improvement in the unintended teen pregnancy rate but we cannot just walk away now.

In order to maintain the success already achieved and move on to tackle other challenges, like rising rates of sexually transmitted diseases, we need more stable and thorough sexual education. Legislation (bill A6512/S4844) has been introduced in Albany that would require publicly funded K-12 schools to teach comprehensive, medically accurate, age-appropriate facts.

Dr. Mofiyin Obadina, University of Rochester Medical Center This letter was signed by seven additional pediatricians.