

FOIA MARKER

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Series/Staff Member: Kristine Gebbie

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OA/ID Number: 3774

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Folder Title:

Meeting with Free Teen USA, Esther Verish 6/14/94

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Author: Carlos Velez at ~ONAPC
Date: 06/13/94 03:29 PM
Priority: Normal
TO: Gus Ventura
CC: Kristine Gebbie
Subject: Free Teens Video

----- Message Contents -----

I have reviewed the video which you received in preparation of the meeting tomorrow. This is my assessment of the video:

- 1) The Free Teens program is an abstinence based program. The video is intended for parents and policy-makers to market this abstinence based message.
- 2) The video itself raises the same issues generally raised by proponents of abstinence: a) abstinence is the only way of protecting our children; b) it is the only way of protecting against HIV, STDs, pregnancy; c) this is the only way that we can show that we care, etc.
- 3) Because this is a marketing to parents video, it does provides limited information on the program. It does say that it is based on self-respect and sharing of parents and children.
- 4) The video does show exercises where parents and children sit together to discuss delay of sexual activity. This is a very positive point, as parents are encouraged to work with their children.
- 5) Although well intended, this video is intended to market a program that only provides abstinence information. It is intended to make the abstinence message more effective, and it presents abstinence in positive light, which is very different.
- 6) Abstinence is presented in a very positive light, including issues of responsibility and self-respect. In this regard, this is a very positive approach to abstinence education.
- 7) This video does not address the needs of students who are already sexually active.
- 8) It is my opinion that the purpose of the meeting is to discuss with you how the federal government can help them promote their program. As this program does not provide comprehensive health promotion, and runs counter to the prevention marketing initiative, it would be good to encourage them to work on making the program more comprehensive.