

**Written Testimony from Elizabeth's New Life Center (ENLC)**  
**616 Five Oaks Ave. Dayton, Ohio 45406**  
**Written by David Enneking**  
**Supervisor in the Youth Development Department 937-276-9248**

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**This proposed bill will affect our youth as young as 12, 13, 14 ... years of age. We should be giving them the best message at this age and the information and tools to make good life-long choices. This is the goal of ENLC and the goal of Abstinence Education.**

**Our program teaches the benefits of abstinence and equips teens with healthy relationship skills and character building information in order to reduce teen pregnancies and STIs and to foster healthy decision making, healthy relationships and ultimately healthy families.**

ENLC has been presenting and improving our Abstinence Programs for the past 10 years as they have been **evaluated by Dr. Brenda W. Donnelly, Ph.D.** of the Fitz Center for Leadership in Community, the University of Dayton. Based on data collected: **"... analysis suggest that the in-school, high-volume program is being highly successful ... Participants who completed both of the evaluation surveys before and after the five-day program show statistically significant increases in knowledge of the risks of early sexual activity. They also show statistically significant increases in their level of acceptance of pro-abstinence positions both for themselves and for other adolescents. Their beliefs and attitudes about abstinence are more favorable after attending the program than they were prior to hearing its message. They are also more likely to intend to remain abstinent longer...** The multi-year approach of ENLC's program is based on the understanding that adolescent sexual activity is a complex issue ... It underscores the need for repeated contact, over an extended period with the teens in these schools, their families, and their communities."

**Participant Feedback:** "It made you question more about relationships." "It helped me with my own relationship." "It made me realize that I made some mistakes in life," and "I could relate a lot of it to my personal experiences or to those of people I know or am close to." "It reassured me I was doing the right thing by staying abstinent." "It was informative and made me think about some of the decisions I've already made and if I should keep making them the way I have." and "It makes me think about how this affects my future."

**Teachers Comments:** "Some students actually had their parents come in to see the presenter. Dayton Public Schools should have it in all the schools..." "The students loved the program. One student stated she would have been unable to talk to her mother about this subject if she didn't have the homework assignment."

**Conclusion:** Our youth are able to make good choices if they are given the correct information, encouragement and support to make good life-long choices. We also need to encourage them to review their choices and the possible consequences and support them in their efforts to change and improve upon those choices for themselves, their future spouse and future children. Abstinence Education does just this.