

**Testimony of Robert Foxx, Director of Programs,  
Youth Organizers United**

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New York Assembly Standing Committee on Education  
New York Assembly Standing Committee on Health**

Hi my name is Robert Foxx and I am 22 years old and I am also one of the Program Coordinators for Youth Organizers United. Youth Organizers United is a youth led and youth run organization that informs and educates young people as well as adults on the various sexual and reproductive health issues and policies.

I've come here to talk to you about the six HIV/Aids mandates and why these mandates are so important to the youth community.

Let me tell you a story of what really happens when we get bits and pieces of information. I had a friend and he and his girlfriend were getting "hot and heavy" and they used emotion lotion for lubrication. (Emotion lotion is sexual message oil that gets warm when you blow on it) You could imagine my shock. I asked him if he knew what emotion lotion is suppose to be used for he told me no. After I had explained to him what the real purpose of this lotion, he felt quite foolish.

The reason why these lessons are so important is because they can save lives and can lower risky behaviors. They teach life skills, by showing us how to put on a condom and telling us all the ways HIV/Aids can be transmitted and prevented. These lessons will stay with us forever because sex is something we will do for most of our lives.

I know most adults feel that if the discussion of sex and young people come up they feel that if we learn about the topic of sex that this will make us go out and have sex early. This is not true because adults try hard not to tell us about sex and has that stop the high rates of teenage pregnancy or the high rates of young people being infected with a STD/STI and what about the high rates of young people being infected with HIV/Aids. There is an old saying "if it anit broke don't fix it" but in the case of HIV/Aids education it is not only broken but it fell apart long ago. It's past time for it to be fixed.

But I did not only come here to talk to you today about HIV/Aids education. I came to talk to you about the type of education that we need. The type of education we need is a comprehensive sexual education. The reason is because it is more inclusive of all the different forms of sex and gives young people the chance to make informed decisions, when it comes to sex. But this comprehensive circlum should also include how to deal with peer pressure and negotiation skills. In order to deal with difficult situations that they might not be ready for.

In closing, I often hear adults say young people are the future but we are also the right now and if you are not willing deal with the right now there will be no future. We need you to take a stance on this issue and not fold because the youth community is in a state of emergency,