



## For Immediate Release:

*September 12, 2017  
Washington, DC*

### **Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Given a \$10 Million Increase in Senate Appropriations Bill**

(Washington DC) The Senate Committee on Appropriations approved the FY 2018 Labor HHS Appropriation Bill containing a \$10 million increase for Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) Education. This increase would bring the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education grant funding level to \$25 million.

Mary Anne Mosack, Executive Director of Ascend, noted, “Currently, many SRA education providers have schools on waiting lists to receive SRA education. This \$10 million increase will permit more communities to access SRA programs in order to meet the growing demand. Ascend would like to thank the leadership of Senator Roy Blunt, Chairman of the Labor HHS Subcommittee, for recognizing the value and need for SRA education reflected in this increase.”

Since the majority of teens have not had sex, far fewer than 25 years ago, SRA education is a strong reinforcement for teens already making this positive choice and for sexually active teens who are given the knowledge and skills they need to return to a risk free status.

Mosack said, “ We are encouraged by the growing consensus among members of Congress who recognize that America’s sex education policy must reflect a strong emphasis on helping teens avoid risk. They need the clear message of optimal health that SRA programs provide. They deserve no less.”

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Ascend champions youth to make healthy decisions in relationships and life by promoting well being through a primary prevention strategy, and as a national membership and advocacy organization that serves, leads, represents and equips the Sexual Risk Avoidance field.