

March 2, 2018
Washington, DC

To arrange an interview with Ascend, contact Christine Eckley at 202-248-5420 or ceckley@WeAscend.org.

For Immediate Release:

Teens On Capitol Hill Share Value of Sexual Risk Avoidance Education and the Success Sequence

March 2, 2018 (Washington, DC) Students and community leaders from across the nation gathered on Capitol Hill for the opportunity to speak to their Members of Congress about the importance of Sexual Risk Avoidance (SRA) Education. These SRA supporters participated in the annual *Day On The Hill* event hosted by Ascend, a national advocacy organization that promotes SRA education.

This year's event focused on the importance of the SRA approach in encouraging youth along the Success Sequence, a researched-based strategy to avoid poverty. First introduced by the Brookings Institute, [findings](#)¹ show that if a young person does three things in sequence: graduates, works full time, and waits until married before having children, their likelihood of living in poverty as an adult is only 2%. Recent research on [Millennials](#)² and their ability to achieve middle class status also supports these findings. *Day On The Hill* participants shared with Members of Congress the value of this research and how it has impacted their lives and the importance of SRA education in their schools and communities.

This event also featured a congressional briefing co-hosted by Ascend and the Family Research Council entitled, *Sex Ed Is About More Than Sex: Empowering Youth with the Success Sequence*. Congressional staffers attended the briefing and heard from a teen and a young adult from the *Choosing to Excel* program who shared their own personal stories of success. Other briefing topics included an update on the status of federal funding for SRA programs and new improvements to the Title V Sexual Risk Avoidance Grant program recently passed by Congress.

Mary Anne Mosack, Executive Director of Ascend, states, "Sex is always about more than sex. And, when teaching teens, life impact must be part of the discussion. Sexual Risk Avoidance programs are intentionally holistic and offer young people the information and skills they need to avoid the risks of teen sex that can, so often, derail their future goals. The Success Sequence, as part of an SRA program, can help their goals and dreams become reality."

Ascend is hopeful that the reasoned dialogue from today's briefing will help focus the sex education debate around what helps youth achieve sexual health, future success and healthy relationships, both now and in the future. SRA education is the key to all three.

1 Haskins, R., Sawhill, I. (2009). Creating an Opportunity Society. Washington, DC: Brookings Institute.

2 Wang, W., Wilcox, B., (2017). The Millennial Success Sequence. Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute.

###

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.

Copyright © 2015 Ascend, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
1701 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
202.248.5420