

New 2019 Appropriations Bill Includes \$10 Million Increase for Sexual Risk Avoidance Education

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For Immediate Release:

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On Sept 28th, the President signed an Appropriations “minibus” funding bill that includes the Dept. of Defense, the Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) and Education Appropriations bill for 2019. Building on the 2018 appropriations bill that increased SRA education to \$25 million, the new bill added an additional \$10 million bringing the total for SRA education programs to \$35 million for 2019.

SRAE grant funding began in 2012 at \$5 million, was increased in 2015 to \$10 million then again in 2017 to \$25 million. “This steady increase in funding for the important sexual risk avoidance approach demonstrates the growing success of SRA programs and the recognition and support from congressional members for such programs,” noted Mary Anne Mosack, President/CEO of Ascend. In addition, the Title V SRA state block grant was increased in 2015 from \$50 million to \$75 million bringing the total funding available for SRA programs in 2018-19 to \$110 million.

Ascend is deeply grateful to Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO), Chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services in the Senate and Chairman Tom Cole (R-OK) in the House who worked to secure this increase for SRA education in the 2019 Appropriations bill. “As funding increases, more and more students throughout the country are able to receive SRA’s optimal sexual health message- a message every young person in America deserves to hear,” added Mary Anne Mosack, President/CEO of Ascend.

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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.

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