

## **PBS TEACHING TEENS WITH PLAYBOY DOLLARS**

The Public Broadcasting Service, PBS, is currently advertising for their movie, "the Education of Shelby Knox," to premier on Tuesday, June 21, 2005. According to the PBS website, the movie is about 15-yearold Shelby Knox, who had personally pledged abstinence until marriage, but becomes an advocate for teaching teens about contraception and condom use through sex education. As part of her advocacy, Shelby allies herself with a group of gay students who have been denied the right to form a gay-straight alliance in school.



## **PBS FILM FUNDING SOURCES**

- American Taxpayer Dollars
- The Playboy Foundation
- Grants from abortion, sex-education and antiabstinence groups

## FILM VS. FACT

PBS FILM: According to Shelby, "We get no [sex] education at all in school."

**FACT:** The Texas Education Code (Subtitle F, Ch. 28, Sec. 28.004) mandates each school district to establish a local school health advisory council to assist the district in ensuring that local community values are reflected in the district's health education instruction. According to the Texas Code, the following must included, among other things, in any material and instruction relating sexual education:

- "Emphasize that abstinence from sexual activity, if used consistently and correctly, is the only method that is 100 percent effective in preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases;
- "Teach contraception and condom use in terms of human use reality rates instead of theoretical laboratory rates, if instruction on contraception and condoms is included in curriculum content".

**PBS FILM**: According to Shelby, "If a student asks a teacher about sex, the teacher by policy is required to answer with 'Abstinence is the only way to prevent STD's and teen pregnancy.'... If they don't, they're in danger of losing their job."

**FACT:** In a June 13, 2005, reply to a congressional inquiry, the Interim Director of Health and Physical Education, Division of Curriculum at the Texas Education Agency, stated, "The teacher should reply that abstinence from sexual activity, if used consistently and correctly, is the only method that is **100 percent effective** in preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. In other words, abstinence is not the **only** method to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases (i.e., contraception and condom use)."

PBS receives funds from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, whose congressional authorization expired in 1997, and yet, continues to be funded through the yearly Labor/Health and Human Services/Education Appropriation's bill.

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