



United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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September 4, 2017

Representative Randy Hultgren
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hultgren,

As the respective chairmen of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth, and the Subcommittee for the Promotion and Defense of Marriage, we write in strong support of your bill, H.R. 2028, the Healthy Relationships Act of 2017.

Lifelong, faithful marriage between one man and one woman is the foundation of society. Helping young people to understand this reality and to prepare well for it is one of the most important tasks of education. The Healthy Relationships Act would afford public and private entities the means to provide holistic, accurate and evidence-based information to young people about sexual activity and health. The Act acknowledges the importance of parental communication and the benefits of the "success sequence," as well as the dangers of pornography, sexual coercion, and dating violence.

The Healthy Relationships Act would address the false narrative, dominant today, that young people are unable to understand the benefits of sexual abstinence before marriage and exhibit self-control and respect for others. The programs that this act would support offer the only true way of combatting the misinformation about sexuality that is often offered through other kinds of sexual education. It also respects the religious beliefs and moral convictions of many young people and their parents.

We are pleased to support the Healthy Relationships Act of 2017 and urge your colleagues to join H.R. 2028 as cosponsors. The availability and accessibility of relationship and sex education that respects religious beliefs and moral convictions is extremely important. Thank you for introducing this needed bill in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap.".

Most Reverend Charles J. Chaput, OFM Cap.
Archbishop of Philadelphia
Chairman
Committee on Laity, Marriage,
Family Life and Youth

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James D. Conley".

Most Reverend James D. Conley
Bishop of Lincoln
Chairman
Subcommittee for the
Promotion and Defense of Marriage