

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 27, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2141**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Jones**

February 21, 2006

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~~An act to add Section 14504.5 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, An act to add Article 3 (commencing with Section 124240) to Chapter 4 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to family planning.~~

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2141, as amended, Jones. Family planning: Parent-Child Communication Assistance Program.

~~Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Services and under which qualified low-income persons receive health care benefits.~~

Under existing law, specified family planning services, administered by the Office of Family Planning within the ~~department~~ *State Department of Health Services*, are provided to Medi-Cal recipients and certain other persons.

*Existing law establishes various programs administered by the department relating to adolescent health.*

This bill would establish the Parent-Child Communication Assistance Program within the ~~Office of Family Planning~~ *Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Branch of the department*, with the goal of decreasing teenage pregnancies through programs that equip parents, guardians, and parenting adults with the knowledge, understanding, and communication skills necessary to talk to their children about making responsible decisions regarding at-risk *sexual* behavior. The

bill would require that the program focus on parents, *guardians, and parenting adults* of minor children at risk of becoming pregnant or impregnating someone, and would specify the funding priorities *and certain provider qualification standards* under the program. It would provide for the program to be implemented to the extent that an appropriation for that purpose is made from state or federal funds.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. *The Legislature finds and declares all of the*  
2 *following:*

3 (a) *Research shows that teenagers who feel comfortable*  
4 *communicating openly about sexuality with their parents, their*  
5 *guardians, or other adult mentors are more likely to delay sexual*  
6 *activity, are less likely to engage in risky sexual behavior, and*  
7 *are better equipped to have healthy relationships than other*  
8 *teenagers.*

9 (b) *The goal of the Parent-Child Communication Assistance*  
10 *Program is to decrease teenage pregnancies, sexually*  
11 *transmitted diseases, and sexual assault through programs that*  
12 *equip parenting adults with the knowledge, understanding, and*  
13 *communication skills necessary to talk with their children about*  
14 *sex and sexuality.*

15 (c) *Parenting adults often do not feel comfortable discussing*  
16 *sex with their children. Parents, guardians, and other parenting*  
17 *adults want to help their children make the best possible*  
18 *decisions regarding what’s best for them. Honest communication*  
19 *not only provides minors with the tools necessary for making*  
20 *responsible decisions, but also helps protect them from sexual*  
21 *abuse and from becoming sexual abusers.*

22 SEC. 2. *Article 3 (commencing with Section 124240) is added*  
23 *to Chapter 4 of Part 2 of Division 106 of the Health and Safety*  
24 *Code, to read:*

25  
26 Article 3. *Parent-Child Communication Assistance Program*  
27  
28 124240. (a) *The Parent-Child Communication Assistance*  
29 *Program shall be a continuing program within the Maternal,*

1 *Child, and Adolescent Branch of the department, with the goal of*  
2 *decreasing teenage pregnancies through programs that equip*  
3 *parents, guardians, and parenting adults with the knowledge,*  
4 *understanding, and communication skills necessary to talk to*  
5 *their children about making responsible decisions regarding*  
6 *at-risk sexual behavior.*

7 *(b) The program shall focus on parents, guardians, and*  
8 *parenting adults of minor children at risk of becoming pregnant*  
9 *or impregnating someone, in an effort to provide the parents,*  
10 *guardians, and parenting adults with effective tools for*  
11 *communicating with their children regarding responsible*  
12 *behavior.*

13 *(c) Participation in the program by a parent, guardian, or*  
14 *parenting adult shall be on a voluntary basis only.*

15 *(d) Priority for funding under the program shall be given to*  
16 *public or private nonprofit organizations operating any of the*  
17 *following types of programs:*

18 *(1) Programs that target parents, guardians, and parenting*  
19 *adults in geographic areas that have been found to be at high*  
20 *risk of teen pregnancy.*

21 *(2) Programs for parents, guardians, and parenting adults of*  
22 *foster care youth.*

23 *(3) Programs designed to assist parents, guardians, and*  
24 *parenting adults in communicating effectively with minors to*  
25 *increase the minors' understanding of, and ability to act*  
26 *responsibly regarding, their own sexuality and the social*  
27 *pressures affecting them.*

28 *(e) Grants shall be made available to qualified public or*  
29 *private nonprofit providers. The Maternal, Child, and Adolescent*  
30 *Branch of the department shall establish provider qualification*  
31 *standards, which shall include, but not be limited to, each of the*  
32 *following:*

33 *(1) Demonstrated cultural sensitivity and competence.*

34 *(2) The medical accuracy and objectivity of all factual*  
35 *information in the curriculum regarding human sexuality, the*  
36 *prevention of unintended pregnancy, and sexually transmitted*  
37 *infections.*

38 *(3) Demonstrated ability to provide effective tools, skills, and*  
39 *strategies for adult communication with minors regarding*  
40 *sexuality.*

1 (4) The provision of, or referral for, a comprehensive range of  
2 services to meet the health, education, and welfare needs of  
3 minors.

4 (5) The provision of a list of available resources in the  
5 community.

6 (f) For purposes of this section, "parenting adult" means an  
7 adult in a child rearing or mentoring role, regardless of whether  
8 the adult is a relative of the minor.

9 (g) This section shall be implemented to the extent that an  
10 appropriation for that purpose is made from funds made  
11 available by the federal government or the state, or by both.

12 SECTION 1. ~~Section 14504.5 is added to the Welfare and~~  
13 ~~Institutions Code, to read:~~

14 ~~14504.5. (a) The Parent-Child Communication Assistance~~  
15 ~~Program shall be a continuing program within the Office of~~  
16 ~~Family Planning, with the goal of decreasing teenage pregnancies~~  
17 ~~through programs that equip parents with the knowledge,~~  
18 ~~understanding, and communication skills necessary to talk to~~  
19 ~~their children about making responsible decisions regarding~~  
20 ~~at-risk behavior.~~

21 ~~(b) The program shall focus on parents of minor children at~~  
22 ~~risk of becoming pregnant or impregnating someone, in an effort~~  
23 ~~to provide the parents or guardians with effective tools for~~  
24 ~~communicating with their children regarding responsible~~  
25 ~~behavior.~~

26 ~~(c) Priority for funding under the program shall be given to the~~  
27 ~~following:~~

28 ~~(1) Programs that target parents and guardians of at-risk youth.~~

29 ~~(2) Programs designed to increase youths' understanding of,~~  
30 ~~and ability to act responsibly regarding, their own sexuality and~~  
31 ~~the social pressures affecting them.~~

32 ~~(d) Grants shall be made available to qualified public or~~  
33 ~~private nonprofit providers.~~

34 ~~(e) This section shall be implemented to the extent that an~~  
35 ~~appropriation for that purpose is made from funds made available~~  
36 ~~by the federal government or the state, or by both.~~