NACCHO Supports Sex Education Coalition’s Call to Action for Sex Ed for All

May is Sex Ed for All Month, an initiative spearheaded by a coalition of sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice organizations committed to ensuring all young people have access to the education and healthcare they need to secure the future they envision for themselves.

“All young people deserve quality sex education that is evidence-informed, skills-based, and affirming of diverse genders, sexualities, races and ethnicities, and families,” said Lori Tremmel Freeman, NACCHO’s Chief Executive Officer. “Comprehensive sex education is more than condoms and contraception, important as they may be – it provides young people with the tools and resources they need to navigate relationships, strengthen bodily autonomy, set and achieve goals, and increase health-seeking behavior. In short, it is one of the best means we have to enable adolescents and young adults to make healthy decisions while reducing systemic inequities. As the voice of local health departments, which work in communities across the United States to engage and empower young people, NACCHO is proud to share the call to action for #SexEdForAll.”

Throughout May, the Sex Education Coalition—which includes NACCHO and many of our colleague organizations including Advocates for Youth, Healthy Teen Network, Power to Decide, SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change, and URGE—will honor this month by providing digital resources, continuing to support parents and educators as they navigate remote learning, and keeping up the fight for policies that ensure all young people are equipped with the education, information, and resources they need to make informed decisions.

NACCHO urges all who support sex education to sign on to the Sex Ed for All Month Call to Action. The Call to Action will be shared with federal, state, and local legislators to demand funding and legislation to ensure every student receives quality sex education.

Decades of research show strong support for sex education among parents, educators, young people, and the general public. Unfortunately, too many young people in the U.S. do not receive the tools they need to make informed sexual and reproductive health decisions because funding and quality of education programs vary significantly across the country.

With schools closed in nearly every state due to the COVID-19 pandemic, young people, parents, educators, and advocates are encouraged to participate in the #SexEdForAll video challenge by sharing how sex education can promote social change. The video challenge will bring real voices across the nation together, elevating the importance of why all young people—no matter who they are, where they live, or what their income is—have the right to the information and skills they need to protect their health.

Each week during May, groups will highlight a different aspect of the fight for sex education! Young people need and deserve quality sex education and sexual health care all year round, no matter what. Get involved this month by telling the world why you believe in sex education for all and follow the hashtag #SexEdForAll on social media.