



## Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) Talking Points

Since 2001, the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP) is the **only federal program that supports physical education**, providing critical funding to initiate, expand and improve school physical education.

- PEP funding has been targeted for elimination in spending reduction legislation in Congress.
- The Department of Education has proposed collapsing PEP into the "Successful, Safe and Healthy Students" (SSHS) initiative, which would force competition for limited dollars among school climate and counseling areas.
- Only 10% of those who apply are awarded grants because of the lack of funding.
- Average expenditure per school on PE programs is only **\$764** per year.
- PEP funded school-based fitness centers are often open to the community, demonstrating sustainability and greater return on investment.

### Potential Objections:

1. The country is facing a major deficit problem and all programs must face reductions.

**Response:** PEP is a relatively low-cost program with big rewards.

- PEP accounts for only .002% of the federal education budget.
- An investment of \$1 into the health of our nation reaps over \$3.25 in return in the long run.
- Annual expenditures related to obesity are expected to top \$270 billion per year.

2. Education is a local control issue.

**Response:** PEP establishes no new authority to the federal government in education.

- PEP funds programs to help students meet physical education standards.
- PEP does not mandate physical education nor require establishment of physical education curriculum.

3. Consolidation of small federal programs helps efficiency in government.

**Response:** Currently, PEP adds no burden to states and offers real help in the tangible form of professional development, innovative programs and equipment.

- Provides assistance to schools and districts that desire to increase physical education but can't afford it.
- No state or district is obligated to do anything.
- Under SSHS, states would have the added burden of applying for grants and administering them to schools, districts and community organizations.

4. The Administration has also proposed The Effective Teaching and Learning for a Well-Rounded Education grant which could provide additional access to funding for health and physical education programs.

**Response:** The proposed amount of that grant is \$25 million and includes arts, health education, foreign languages, civics and government, history, geography, environmental education, economics and financial literacy, and other subjects. While we are encouraged by the inclusion of health education, physical education is not mentioned and the amount of funding dedicated to be shared by several subjects is \$50 million less than what PEP currently receives.