

Finding Common Ground

OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNITING IN A SHARED GOAL
WITH CONSERVATIVE DECISION-MAKERS
SEPTEMBER 14, 2017



Healthy Teen Network

Welcome!



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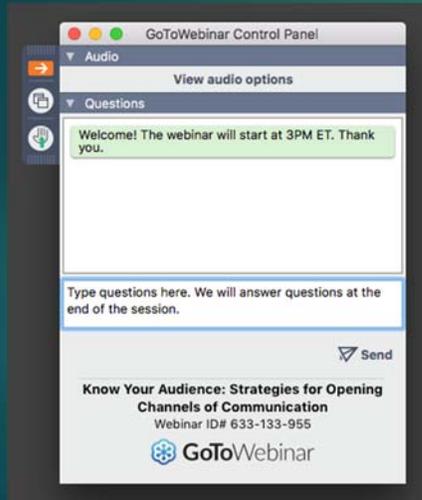
2





About Today's Session

5



- ▶ GoToWebinar Guide & FAQs: support.logmeininc.com/gotowebinar/join
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Finding Common Ground: 2017 Advocacy Project

6



Project Goal:

Increase capacity to educate public policymakers on the imperative of sustaining & increasing public investment in positive sexual health education & services for young people.

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ISSUE BRIEF

FINDING COMMON GROUND
AN OVERVIEW ON KEY CONSERVATIVE PRINCIPLES
TO SUPPORT SHARED GOALS FOR ADOLESCENT
SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH



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7



New Resource: Issue Brief

Available on our website
after today's webinar!

Today's Presenters: Steinhauser Strategies

8



▶ Randan Steinhauser



▶ Brendan Steinhauser

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GOALS FOR TODAY

- ▶ Explore common conservative perspectives, attributes, and philosophies that guide political decisions
- ▶ Expand on the five guiding principles of conservatism
- ▶ Identify areas for agreement and opportunities to work together with conservatives
- ▶ Feel prepared to partake in constructive conversations with policy leaders who may not agree with you but are willing to hear your message
- ▶ Identify additional resources for better understanding various conservative perspectives



Overview of Research and Methods

- ▶ 4-Week interview process with more than twenty conservative-leaning thought leaders, elected officials, activists, parents, and educators; age, geographic, religious diversity
- ▶ Focused on areas of Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health including:
 - ▶ Sexuality Education
 - ▶ Risk Prevention
 - ▶ Youth Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health Services
 - ▶ Parental Consent
 - ▶ Youth Access to HPV Vaccine
 - ▶ Youth Access to PrEP



Who Are Conservatives?

- ▶ **Age/Race/Gender:** older, whiter, men more likely to be conservative
- ▶ **Religious Views:** Regularly attend church; Evangelical; 40% of Catholics
- ▶ **Community/Cultural:** Rural, local community-focused, overtly patriotic, generously donate to charity, Fox News viewers



Not All Conservatives are the Same

- ▶ Fiscal Conservatives
- ▶ Religious Right
- ▶ Libertarian-Leaning
- ▶ Trump Voters
- ▶ Tea Party
- ▶ "Establishment"
- ▶ National Security Hawks

NOTE: These represent a variety of "types" of conservatives – there are areas for agreement but also disagreement among these factions



Five Principles of Conservatism

1. Limited Government
2. Local Control
3. Parental Involvement
4. Anti-Abortion
5. Morality/Values



LIMITED GOVERNMENT

- ▶ Rights come from God, not Government
- ▶ 10th Amendment Focus – Federalism
- ▶ Focus on local government, not distant federal gov't
- ▶ Wary of federal power/overreach
- ▶ Fiscally, a more limited gov't requires less funding
- ▶ Big government = less freedom, higher taxes, and crowds out the private sector
- ▶ Personal responsibility



Common Ground on Limited Gov't

- ▶ **Fiscal Impact:** Focus on opportunities to save taxpayer funds
 - ▶ Example: wasted funds on abstinence-only education with no improved outcomes
- ▶ **Credible Messengers:** Partner with more conservative-leaning organizations or individuals when possible
- ▶ **Personal Responsibility:** By educating young adults, we're preparing them to be personally responsible
- ▶ **Local Control:** Focus on working with local decision-makers and involving the community when possible



LOCAL CONTROL

- ▶ Conservatives prefer local control to state/federal involvement
- ▶ Local government is closer to the people they represent and therefore better able to serve them
- ▶ Local government should *not* be able to reduce freedom or violate fundamental rights
- ▶ Easier to hold locally-elected officials accountable than far-away lawmakers in Washington



Common Ground on Local Control

- ▶ Engaging in the Community – provide opportunities for community leaders to engage in your work
- ▶ Transparency – Allow anyone to see first-hand the work that you're doing to impact teen lives
- ▶ Provide Examples of Local Partnerships
- ▶ Personal Stories/Testimonials



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

- ▶ Parents should be the ultimate decision-makers in their child's life with little to no government intervention
- ▶ Conservatives fear the encroachment of government into their lives
- ▶ Parents should be able to educate/influence their children on religious/moral ideas
- ▶ Age of consent/access – parents need to be involved before the age of 18 and should have the right to remove their child from sexuality health courses
- ▶ HPV Vaccine



Common Ground on Parental Control

- ▶ **Parental Involvement:** emphasize the desire to have parents involved
- ▶ **Health Benefits:** regarding HPV vaccine, provide factual information regarding health benefits
- ▶ **Empower Parents:** Identify areas for empowering parents with information/resources to feel more comfortable engaging with their teen



ANTI-ABORTION

- ▶ One of the most distinguishing characteristics of conservatives is their anti-abortion stance
- ▶ Over 65% of conservatives are anti-abortion
- ▶ Belief that life begins at conception
- ▶ Moral/legal questions relating to abortion
- ▶ Religious perspectives



Common Ground on Abortion

- ▶ **Full Options Counseling Includes Adoption:** emphasize partnerships with adoption agencies
- ▶ **Focus on Prevention:** Emphasize access to birth control and information for teens
- ▶ **Data Talk:** Focus on the national drop in teen pregnancies in relation to increase access to sexual and reproductive health services



MORALS & VALUES

- ▶ Traditional Family Values and Morals as a guiding principle
- ▶ Regularly attend church; foundation of their life
- ▶ Natural Law Theory – supersedes human law; fundamental to Christian teaching; St. Thomas Aquinas
- ▶ Focus on age-appropriate lessons and information



Common Ground on Morals/Values

- ▶ **Age Appropriate:** Focus on curriculum and the need for age-appropriate content
- ▶ **Proven Effective:** Comprehensive sexuality education does not lead to more sexual behavior
- ▶ **Voter Support:** Majority of voters – across the spectrum – support comprehensive sexual education



CONCLUSION

- ▶ Remember: not all conservatives are the same
- ▶ Understand your audience in order to find common ground (lesson from last week)
- ▶ Recognize the basic tenets of conservatism to better understand their perspective
- ▶ Use data and personal testimonies to reinforce your ideas
- ▶ Understand where you will not find common ground and avoid that, if possible



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- ▶ Russell Kirk: *The Conservative Mind*
- ▶ Barry Goldwater: *Conscience of a Conservative*
- ▶ St. Thomas Aquinas: *On Law, Morality, and Politics*
- ▶ Frank Meyer: *In Defense of Freedom; What is Conservatism*
- ▶ Ambassador Alberto Piedra: *Natural Law: The Foundation of an Orderly Economic System*



Q & A

26

