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ACLU of Wisconsin Responds to Ill-Advised Attack on New Comprehensive Sex Education Law in Juneau County

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MILWAUKEE, WI – Today, Christopher Ahmuty, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin, issued the following statement after the district attorney in Juneau County send a letter to public school districts in the county in which he threatened teachers with prosecution for contributing to the delinquency of a minor, if they follow a new state law, the Healthy Youth Act:

"The district attorney in Juneau County has taken it upon himself to threaten possible prosecution of public school teachers in the county, if they follow a new state law that requires medically accurate and age appropriate sex education. He says that accurate information encourages teens to have sex, but the new law actually <u>requires</u> teachers to inform their students that sex with a minor is illegal."

"He apparently believes that good teaching will contribute to the delinquency of a minor. The Healthy Youth Act on the other hand recognizes that, despite the best advice of teachers and parents, some teenagers will still have sex, and it is best that they have accurate information, rather than unreliable information from peers or the internet."

"School districts in Juneau County will be wiser if they listen to the guidance coming from the Department of Public Instruction on the new law and to their own teachers, principals, advisory councils and school attorneys. Parents may continue under the new law to withdraw their children from sex education."

The ACLU of Wisconsin has approximately 9,000 members who support its efforts to defend the civil liberties and civil rights of all Wisconsin residents. For more on the work of the ACLU of Wisconsin, visit our weepbage. You can also get news and opinion on civil liberties in Wisconsin on our Cap City Liberty blog. Find us on Facebook and Twitter at ACLUMadison and ACLUofWisconsin.