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To whom it may concern,

The *L'Taken* Seminar: A Teen Social Justice Program is an educational leadership program of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism exposing students to a variety of public policy issues. Among the issues that are explored are: first amendment rights, the environment, economic justice, abortion, civil rights, foreign aid, and human rights. On each issue students engage in creative educational exercises as well as meet with individuals who are part of the public policy debate on each subject. These speakers work for public interest organizations, Congress and the U.S. Administration.

The students learn about the structure of the American political system and government. During the seminars, students come to learn the complexity of public policy issues, how the American democratic system functions and how they can become more active and informed citizens. After approximately 35 hours of seminars, discussion, and educational exercises under the supervision of an expert educational staff, the program culminates with a day on Capitol Hill meeting with the offices of both their senators and representatives. Often, students meet with the member of Congress themselves.

Our teen social justice program is a valuable complement to high school courses in American History, Civics or American Government. Upon completion students earn a certificate. Any consideration that you can give to interested students by excusing their absence for one to two days would help to encourage their participation in this unique educational program. Many of our past participants have also been able to write up their experience for credit with their social studies departments. We hope that your school would similarly permit such an arrangement.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter. If you would like to know more information about the program, please visit the Religious Action Center's website, www.rac.org/ltaken.

Sincerely,

Michael Namath

Assistant Vice President, Acting Together for Justice