

To the Chair and members of the House Education Committee,

We are the parents of 7 children. We are both college educated. We are the first educators of our children and the consistent educators of them. We believe it is our responsibility to teach our children about sex, sexuality, and all that goes along with it. We believe we know the best way to provide this to our children and at what ages they should be given information as well as knowing the emotional development level of each of our children.

We also know that the stigma of opting our children out of the program deemed appropriate by the schools, teachers, and state is very hard on our children. We have not chosen to opt our children out for this reason. However, when I even asked to simply see the curriculum present, it appeared to be a very difficult request to be filled. It took multiple attempts to get this material from the health teacher and it doesn't appear that we're even getting all that is covered. The reason I say this is because when I asked about the sex education materials, she immediately stated that they don't have a specific curriculum to view, don't go into a lot of detail about sex, but they do talk about "safe sex." None of the materials--power points used in class-- we received even mentioned "safe sex" or **abstinence**. We need to know, and have a right to know, what our children are being taught.

We urge your support for the bill under consideration, HB2199. We don't believe the government or our schools should assume the parental role in our children's lives. This bill will return important responsibility to the parents where it should lie.

Respectfully submitted,
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