

**HB – 2199 – Proponent Testimony of Kathy Martin – former Kansas State
Board of Education member 2004-2012
February 2015**

Chairman Highland and members of the House Education Committee. I strongly support HB 2199, an act concerning health and human sexuality education.

As a former member of the Kansas State Board of Education, one of my top priorities was to insure that the health and sex education curriculum presented to students reflected the moral values of their parents and was beneficial to society's goal of strong families.

The gold standard for a school's health and sexuality curriculum is the abstinence until marriage message. Unfortunately there was not a majority of those serving on the KSBE from 2004 – 2012 to mandate that schools adopt such a curriculum. Organizations such as Planned Parenthood, and other groups that consider themselves "progressive" are constantly telling our young men and women that they can engage in recreational sex if they use protection. This is an unacceptable message.

We also tried unsuccessfully to adopt the opt-in verses the opt-out sex education student participation. Such a procedure requires parents to take a more active role in determining what their child will be exposed to during health and sex ed classes. If this can be accomplished through legislation, our students will be protected from hearing unhealthy "safe sex" messages and parents will be better informed about what things will be promoted in health class.

It is my understanding that several school districts have been using this option for some time. Even the largest school district, Wichita, was using it at one time. I am not sure if this is still the case.

Every parent needs to be made aware of what materials, messages, and methods the school plans to present as their sex ed curriculum. If the parent approves and wants their child to participate in the class, then they can opt their student in. This will insure that a child is not exposed to detrimental, immoral information without parental consent.

Thank you,

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