

**Testimony of Rev. Kent H. Little, Lead Pastor
College Hill United Methodist Church, Wichita, KS
Opposing House Bill 2199
House Education Committee
February 17, 2015**

Members of the House Committee considering HB2199,

I was raised in the church from my baptism into adulthood. I can say I was the benefactor of excellent education regarding human sexuality as presented to me in my public school system as well as within the teachings of my church. The church, and in particular my Christian denomination, has been a staunch supporter of quality, factual, and intentional human sexuality for decades and I am grateful for the commitment to the educational processes and the obvious benefit to our young people regarding healthy and quality choices regarding their sexuality.

Evidence shows that quality human sexuality education leads to fewer unplanned pregnancies and in particular fewer unplanned teenage pregnancies. Society and access to erroneous human sexuality information today deems it even more important to have quality education in this area. Many believe they can offer that education themselves based on their own experience or can often think if their children are not exposed to factual information they will not engage in risk laden behavior, which is not the case as borne out in the experiences of young persons and families around the globe.

I am concerned about House Bill 2199 because it seems to put an even greater burden and limiting feature on the ability of our public schools to offer excellence in education that makes our society better informed to make the proper choices that benefits all of us. I am concerned with this bill because it would inject even more intrusion into our school systems from the state level as opposed to allowing school boards and teachers to continue the processes already in place that allows for conversation and cooperation between the school district's policies, students, and parents.

As a Christian clergy person, I applaud our public school systems and their commitment to educating our students with the highest quality information and education in all areas, but specifically in the area of human sexuality with which this bill deals. The church has often been a voice in this area and we need to continue to offer our input to you our leaders. It would be the resolve of myself and many across the spectrum of faith based as well as non-religious that the procedures, policies, and practices we already have in place are appropriate and do not need additional burdens of governmental bureaucracy to limit our public school systems. I would say, let them teach.

Speaking for the church I serve as well as myself, I would hope in your consideration of this bill you will deem it too limiting in nature placing an additional burden on the school districts and not forward it on for a vote.

Sincerely,

Rev. Kent H. Little, Lead Pastor
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