

Statement of Natasha Wong
In Opposition to SB 56
House Committee on the Judiciary
February 2, 2016

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee:

My name is Natasha Wong, and my son Max, attended Hocker Grove Middle School during the time period which a controversial sexual education poster was posted. As a parent, I think it is important we discuss what really happened here and why I believe this legislation should be defeated.

Many young students are often confused about what constitutes sex. This line is blurred through TV, the internet, music videos and even video games. As a result, some acts we adults have always considered sex are redefined as “not sex”. The class that took place at Hocker Grove tried to help students understand that despite peer and social pressures, some acts, in fact, ARE sex.

In teaching young children what is a sex act, the teacher and program worked to make it less likely that children could be manipulated into performing sex acts because “well, this isn’t REALLY sex”.

The bill as put forward today makes it more difficult for children to ask questions of teachers that can shape their actions, and a parent, I want to make sure my son can feel comfortable in asking a question and a teacher responding truthfully.

Putting a gag on teachers, preventing them from answering student questions or discussing fact based information doesn’t help protect our children. It will quickly be manipulated by students who know the limits and will test them frequently, finding humor in “stumping” a teacher who can’t talk about certain subject matter.

Sexual education helps students not just understand their body, but to help rebuff unwanted advances and pressure to partake in these acts.

I’d urge this committee to strongly consider the impact of this legislation. Think about when you were a young man or woman. Ask if you knew of any other student who would love the idea of stumping a teacher, manipulating a member of the opposite sex by lack of information.

Sexual education is an important part of making sure our children are prepared for the world around them, especially today.

Thank you,

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