



MainStream Coalition
5960 Dearborn Street, #213
Mission, Kansas 66202-9905

★ Rational Voices for Irrational Times ★

913-649-3326 • www.mainstreamcoalition.org

Testimony to House Education Committee

Chair, Representative Ron Highland at ron.highland@house.ks.gov

Tuesday, February 17, 2015 Committee Meeting, 1:30 PM Room 112-N

Sue Mollenkamp, Committee Assist, 785-296-7310, sue.mollenkamp@house.ks.gov

Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Sheryl Spalding

President

Carol Marinovich

Vice-President

Mark Wiebe

Secretary

Lisa Veglahn

Treasurer

Dennis Sweeny

Past President

Harry McDonald

MAIN*PAC Co-Chair

Sherrelyn Smith

MAIN*PAC Co-Chair

Members

Matt Birch

Joe Colantuono

Kathleen Cooper

Mary Estrada

Joy Ginsburg

Gail James

Charlotte McDonald

David Morantz

Tim Owens

Ed Peterson

Rev. Aaron Roberts

Don Wigger

Rev. Bob Meneilly

Chairman Emeritus

Brandi Fisher

Executive Director

Position – OPPOSE

Opt-In Human Sexuality Education ([HB 2199](#))

Chairman Highland and Committee Members,

MainStream Coalition is a non-partisan, grassroots organization. We grew from an outpouring of concerns over the infringement of governmental separation of powers and of church and state. For over two decades now, we have worked to advocate for state policies that perpetuate good governance and traditional Kansas moderate values.

In alignment with our mission, MainStream Coalition is opposed to this bill for two reasons. First, the bill reflects a legislative overstep of its constitutional authority and a failure to maintain reasonable separation of governmental powers. Policy dictating curriculum and procedural practices like this Opt-In Human Sexuality Education bill (HB 2199) is the jurisdiction of our elected members of local and State Boards of Education, guided by the expertise of the professionals with the Kansas Department of Education.

Secondly, this political over reaction stands to increase children's risky behavior due to lack of accurate information as much or more than it stands to prevent harm. District policies are already in place to address several of the proposed statutory changes. We speculate that the trigger event for this proposed bill is more likely a function of inadequate school funding and subsequent insufficient staffing levels than anything else.

- Local school boards already provide human sexuality curriculum to parents upon request
- Opt-out policies allow children to be removed from sexuality education upon the request of a parent and without penalty to the student.
- The overwhelming majority of states have opt-out policies, only three states, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah, require active parental permission and those were in response to partisan activism, not sound educational policy.

We urge this committee to oppose HB2199.

Respectfully submitted,

Brandi Fisher, Executive Director

MainStream Coalition and Education Foundation