
Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas & Mid-Missouri

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Opposing House Bill 2199
House Education Committee
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As a provider of comprehensive, age-appropriate sex education to young people in Kansas, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Kansas and Mid-Missouri opposes HB 2199 because it eliminates local control, takes away a vital resource for helping young people to stay safe and healthy, and ties the hands of Kansas educators.

Government overreach and eliminating local control characterizes HB 2199.

- Local school boards, with input from parents and community members, decide what kinds of sex education policies are right for their districts.
- This is a local issue. Politicians should not make these decisions for local communities.
- Current policies are working and ensure parents maintain their right to be informed of any upcoming sexuality related education, have access to the curriculum, and have reasonable time to opt their children out of sex education lessons.

Sex education helps our young people stay healthy and make responsible decisions.

- We have a responsibility to make sure we are preparing young people in our state for productive and bright futures.
- Preventing teen pregnancy helps break the cycle of poverty, improves educational attainment, and improves health outcomes.
- We know sex education works. Over 100 studies have shown that sex education helps young people delay sex and use condoms and contraception when they do become sexually active.
- Young people want access to sex education. The past two years have seen students from universities across the state mobilizing against proposals like HB 2199 that create barriers to sex education, citing the importance of their own education and informed decision making.
- Stigma is a social determinant of health that can affect physical and mental health, as well as whether or not young people seek out and receive needed health services and intervention from abuse. Enforcing sexuality as a taboo topic in public schools means young people will be less able to make responsible and healthy decisions.
- Unintended pregnancies cost Kansas taxpayers millions every year. In the current climate, in which Kansas is struggling to make ends meet, sex education provides real solutions and undeniable cost savings for taxpayers and the government.

Restrictions on materials in this bill in Section 1 (c), combined with [Senate Bill 56](#), which could criminalize educational materials challenged as “harmful to minors,” are overly broad.

- This restriction on materials ties the hands of Kansas educators and will prevent them from providing the education their students need and parents expect.
- These bills risk criminalizing teachers for mistakenly showing handouts or other materials to students not opted into sex education.