



Massachusetts Family Institute

# MFI Brief

## WHY WE OPPOSE THE SEX EDUCATION MANDATE (SB 234) *Health Curriculum Frameworks*

The Massachusetts legislature is considering mandating a controversial sex education framework for public schools across the state. Unlike topics such as math and science, there is no public consensus regarding sex education. Currently, local schools can decide for themselves what and when to teach the children in their community about sex, based on the unique needs of their student populations and desires of their parents. This bill would eliminate that right.



### **Loss of Local Control**

If passed, this bill would remove control of health education from locally elected school committees and force schools to use curricula aligned with the “standards” of the state Health Curriculum Frameworks.

The bill gives complete control over local sex education curricula to the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), which would “ensure compliance” with the frameworks. DESE has already published which specific curricula they believe are “consistent with” the frameworks, and the content is VERY disturbing.

### **Problematic Topics Required**

SB 234 mandates instruction on several topics that the average parent or school committee member would find objectionable. Many of the required topics are designed to be taught in a way that conveys implicit approval of sexual activity among very young students, despite the legal age of consent of 16 years old.

It requires that classes provide children as young as 11 years old with the following information:

- How to obtain an abortion without parental consent or knowledge.
- How to obtain contraceptives without parental consent or knowledge.
- Encouragement of alternative sexual behaviors to avoid pregnancy.

In addition, this bill specifically requires “affirmative representation of lesbian, gay, **bisexual**, and transgender individuals, **relationships** and families...” Promoting homosexual and bisexual sexual acts as normal, natural, and healthy contradicts the religious teachings of many parents, and restricts their constitutional right to determine the moral upbringing of their children.

**Please oppose the Health Curriculum Frameworks and any other efforts to remove control of health education from local parents and school boards.**

Children Ages 5 - 10 will be required to:	Children Ages 11-14 will be taught:	Children would <u>not</u> be taught:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Describe “different types of families,” addressing membership and social influences. This means alternative families headed by same-sex parents or bisexual groupings.</li> <li>• Define sexual orientation, gender identity using the “correct” terminology, such as “heterosexual, gay, lesbian and bisexual.”</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceptance of consensual pre-marital sex.</li> <li>• Moral acceptance of alternative lifestyles.</li> <li>• Methods for avoiding pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of being married prior to engaging in sexual activity.</li> <li>• The high failure rate of condoms and other methods of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.</li> <li>• Presentations of fetal development to ensure balance in any discussion that educates children on how to obtain an abortion.</li> </ul>

**VOTE “NO” ON SB 234**