

Rebuttal to Senator Talking Points on the Sex-Ed Mandate, S.2459 An Act Relative to Healthy Youth Act, passed in the MA Senate, 33-2, Thursday, January 16th

Senator's comments are in bold:

1. **"The "healthy youth" bill that we just passed in the Senate requires that if a public school offers sex education, the curriculum should be age-appropriate, medically-accurate and comprehensive."** Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), the kind of sex ed curricula that the Senate and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) considers age-appropriate and medically accurate is anything but. I have done extensive research on CSE curricula and have seen with my own eyes the explicit and pornographic nature of what is being mandated by this bill. This [article](#) outlines the specifics of the curriculum well. It includes role playing sexual scenarios, instruction for students on masturbation, and vivid descriptions of having an orgasm. The book [It's Perfectly Normal](#) (recommended reading for ages 10 to 15 in Planned Parenthood's "Get Real" curriculum), a core text used in [Our Whole Lives](#), another CSE curriculum approved by the state, demonstrates the material that is being shown to Massachusetts students. The book – meant for kids as young as fifth grade — contains 67 nude illustrations, including adults having sex, teens masturbating, and a man putting on a condom.
2. **"Sex education does not make students more likely to engage in sex too early or engage in other risky behaviors."** It depends what kind of sex education students are receiving. This bill will mandate a specific type of sex education called Comprehensive Sexuality Education or CSE. Out of [60 school based CSE studies](#), failure rates at producing sustained effects on targeted outcomes included 88% failure to delay teen sexual initiation and 94% failure to reduce unprotected sex. Also, 12% of CSE programs were found to have a significant negative effect on adolescent sexual health and/or risk behavior. In fact, [nearly 1 in 4 teens](#) report that CSE sex education classes make them feel pressured to have sex and that participating in sexual activity is an expectation. Monica Cline, a former sex educator for Planned Parenthood, confirms the assertion that CSE made students feel like having sex was an expectation, as she reports in this [video](#) where she shares her personal experience of teaching sex education to teens in the classroom.

Conversely, [Sexual Risk Avoidance](#) (SRA) curricula focuses on encouraging teens to make wise decisions in relationships and helps them to achieve optimal health and life success. Teaching young people to delay sexual debut is the most effective way to empower them to eliminate risk. [Twenty-five peer reviewed studies](#) — that included a comparison/control group in their design and evaluated statistically significant positive behavioral impact on teens — have confirmed the effectiveness of SRA education. Findings from these studies suggest that students who participate in these programs realize [healthier outcomes](#). Researchers have found decreases in pregnancy rates, incidence of sexually transmitted infections, and levels of sexual initiation; kids who go through healthy sex education also attain assertiveness skills against sexual pressure and assault and are more likely to have a positive focus on future life and career goals.

3. **“Out of respect for local control of education, the bill does not require a school district to offer sex education.”** When the actual effects of this legislation are examined, it becomes quite clear that it is dishonest to say this bill respects local control of education. In fact, the exact opposite is true. The supporters of this bill know full well that most school districts in MA already teach some form of sex ed and therefore will be forced to teach sexually explicit CSE should this bill become law. The Senators are using the fact that school districts will not be forced to teach sex ed to misinform constituents, asserting that this bill isn't a mandate. It absolutely is a mandate. And to say otherwise is simply inaccurate. Control over curriculum choices is taken away from local school districts and full authority is given to DESE.

Of course, it will then be argued that districts will still have freedom to choose what curriculum they want to use to teach sex ed. Yes, that is true, but this bill requires that they choose only from a list of available sexually explicit CSE curricula, of which there are many. Some of them include Planned Parenthood's Get Real, Informed and In Charge by Girls Inc., Our Whole Lives, Making Proud Choices, and others. You can hardly consider that freedom. This bill completely disrespects local control of education and gives control to bureaucrats instead. It takes real freedom away and mandates a one size fits all approach to teaching sex ed.

4. **“Nor does it reduce the control of parents over the education of their children in districts that do choose to offer sex education. Under existing law, schools are required to notify parents that they are planning to teach sex education. Schools must allow parents to withdraw their children from any or all portions of a sex education program.”**

“The new law preserves these rights for parents and, in fact, strengthens them by clarifying the notification policies and assuring access to course materials for inspection by parents.”

With the amount of sexually explicit content in CSE, the opt out which will remain is irrelevant since kids will still be exposed through peer relationships, because kids talk. And the assertion that there will be transparency and that parents will be able to view the curriculum is suspect. School officials have ways of “complying” with the law while still hiding content from parents.

I've had parents tell me that they have gone to school officials to ask to see the curriculum being used to teach sex, only to be shown an outline of topics covered that don't reveal any of the true content. In fact, one district just flat out lied and said they were using one curriculum when they were really using another. A public records request was sent to that district and it was discovered that they were using Informed and In Charge from Girls, Inc. which contains pornographic content.

For instance, the [Sexualitree](#) where students are instructed to list the people (plural) that they are dating or having sex with. This curriculum also sends students to the [Scarlateen](#) website where they can read articles such as, “How to Approach Sexual Fantasy and Desire on Your Own Terms,” or “All About Sex: The Scarlateen Book,” where you can learn about “Kinky Sex” such as role-play, bondage/restraint, body fluid or blood play and sex toys. Teens can also visit the “One-Stop Safer Sex Shop” where teens can buy condoms or lube from the “Slippery Slope Stockpile”. Here's the description for lube:

"Does [sex](#) with barriers feel more like sex with barriers than sex with a person? Are condoms breaking? Do you or your partners often feel sore or uncomfortable with [sexual](#) activities like [intercourse](#), masturbation or [manual sex](#)? Does sex with condoms feel a lot less good than it does without? Are you *always* using plenty on [lubricant](#) before and during sexual activities? *No*? Then that may be one of your big missing pieces that can change any or even all of that.

A little lube inside a barrier and plenty on the outside, on hands with [masturbation](#) or manual sex with a [partner](#), and used before and during any sex with [entry](#) goes a very long way when it comes to pleasure, comfort and also helps barriers to be as effective as they can at preventing [pregnancy](#) or sexually transmitted illness." (Notice the use of the word "illness" as opposed to the word disease or infection to follow the words sexually transmitted. This is an effort to de-stigmatize STIs and make them seem normal and natural to kids, akin to the common cold. SO DANGEROUS.)

5. **"The bill explicitly contemplates that the curriculum should teach "the benefits of abstinence and delaying sexual activity."** Although abstinence is given a little mention in CSE curricula as an option for teens, with the amount of sexually explicit how-to material included, the message is lost. It is like telling your kids not to drink alcohol, but then throwing a party for them and their friends and buying them a keg of beer.
6. **"This language strikes a balance between those who might advocate that abstinence be the exclusive message in sex education and those who feel it is important to recognize that some students may make the choice to engage in sex."** According to Massachusetts General Law c.265, § 23, it is against the law to have sex with anyone under 16 years old, even if you are also under 16. CSE is being taught to students as young as 12 years old in MA schools already.

SRA education focuses on optimal health which is far more comprehensive than CSE and the success rates of SRA are more favorable too.

7. **"The bill also requires the curriculum to include skill development, helping students to learn how to "effectively discuss safe sexual activity."** What is meant by skill development? Teaching children how to experience orgasm while masturbating? Here's an excerpt from Our Whole Lives, a CSE curriculum approved by the DESE, "As I feel the orgasm coming, I forget about everything else and get lost in this feeling that starts in the top of my penis and spreads out all over my body..." Or by skill development, perhaps you are referring to the instructions in [Planned Parenthood's Get Real curriculum being taught in at least 150 MA public schools](#) that instructs 12- year-old students how to make a homemade dental dam using saran wrap for oral to anal sex? Or by "effectively discussing safe sexual activity" perhaps you are referring to the conversation starters that students and teachers can have discussing "Kinky Sex" such as role-play, bondage/restraint, body fluid or blood play from "All About Sex: The Scarleteen Book," that is recommended in Girls Inc., Informed and In Charge?

Youth do not need skill development/how-to instruction on sexual activity. They need to learn decision making skills that will safeguard their health and teach them to prevent risk altogether. The primary prevention model of SRA education can accomplish this much more effectively than CSE.

8. **“The bill also speaks to the issue of consent and coercion in relationships, requiring skill development to ‘form healthy, respectful relationships.’ Hopefully, this will help to reduce dating violence.”** Again, minors are not legally capable of consenting to sex in the state of Massachusetts.

Teaching children how to consent to sex makes them more, not less vulnerable to victimization. Skilled perpetrators groom children to think that it is their idea to have sex, which tricks the child to “consent”. Teaching consent does not address the reasons that people sexually assault others. It simply helps them do it in a way that will keep them from being prosecuted. If consent is taught, we will still have sexual “victims” and “predators”, but it will be a lot harder to prosecute sexual predators who cleverly follow the manipulative “consent rules” and simply claim that the other person did consent to sex.

CSE curriculum teaches that anything goes sexually, as long as there is consent. Because of this, children may not even recognize that they could be consenting to being sexually exploited. Teaching children how to consent to sex undermines the wisdom in delaying sexual debut, by sending the message that it is okay to have sex as long as they and another person agree and by actually instructing them on how to ask another person to engage in sexual activity with them.

In Planned Parenthood’s Get Real curriculum students are referred to their website where they can watch videos. Watch this [Planned Parenthood video](#) about consent. Teaching children how to consent to sex, by teaching them to say things to each other such as, “Make I take off your clothes?”, “Show me where you want me to touch you” or “Let’s try this sexual activity I heard about” fosters a phony respect for others by teaching them how to coax, seduce or manipulate others into having sex. Do parents really want schools to teach their children how to say such things to each other?

9. **“Finally, the bill requires that sex education include “age-appropriate information about gender identity and sexual orientation for all students.”** This bill will mandate curricula that is objectionable to many parents, is not age appropriate, and that promotes harmful and dangerous transgender ideology. More is coming out about the [increase in transgenderism among youth](#), and even [psychological journals](#) are now publishing articles characterizing this phenomenon as a social contagion and psychic epidemic that is harming children. In just seven years, there has been a nearly [2000% increase](#) in children seeking treatment for sexual identity confusion in the U.K. One [study](#) showed that when a teen announces a transgender identity to their peer group, the number of friends who also became trans-identified was 3.5 per group.

Up to [98% of children](#) who struggle with their sex as a boy or a girl, come to accept their sex by adulthood. Why would the MA Senate want to mandate that our children be taught curriculum that confuses them about their gender, setting them on a path of dangerous and drastic interventions that set them up for long-term physical effects from the use of puberty blockers

and cross-sex hormones that have not been studied yet? Not to mention body mutilating surgery. This is child abuse.

SRA education is a better choice to address risks of sexual activity and promotes healthy behavior for all students.

10. **“The hope is that this element of the curriculum will make the program fully relevant to all students, including LGBTQ students. LGBTQ students should not feel left out of health education. Including them will support them emotionally, help them reduce risky behaviors and may give other students insights that will reduce bullying.”** The issue of risk and safety can be better addressed for all students using the SRA approach. Students do not need to be taught details of sexual orientation and the very controversial transgender ideology that is harming children in order to be taught how to treat others who may be different than them with respect, kindness, and dignity.
11. **“The Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) prepares curriculum frameworks for teaching in Massachusetts schools. These are intended to guide teachers in developing their lessons.”** This bill will change the Health Frameworks from simply being a “guide” to being mandated standards that must followed. Again, local control is taken away.
12. **“Generally, these frameworks are developed by DESE without detailed guidance from the legislature. In this case, the legislature is providing an outline for the content of the curriculum because of the political sensitivity of the issue and to support DESE in releasing a more comprehensive curriculum.”** This statement proves once again that full authority is being given to DESE to write sex ed standards that will be mandated by law. With this bill, parents are completely pushed aside. They will no longer have a voice at the local level to discuss curriculum decisions made by their local school board. When parents protest sex ed content at the local level, school officials will point to the DESE guidelines and DESE will point to the law, should this bill pass the House and the Governor signs it. Sure, they can still opt their child out, but this will not fully protect children from being exposed to objectionable subject matter due to peer relationships with students who will be in CSE classes. And what if parents rather that their school district teach SRA education instead of CSE? This bill will take away any recourse for them to petition school officials.

And what will be in the “more comprehensive curriculum” that DESE will release this year after the 1999 Health Frameworks are finished being revised? As a parent, I am appalled at what [DESE has approved in their Framework](#) in the past. They considered the curricula that I have described above as “good” or “excellent”. I do not trust that DESE will create an unbiased, parent-friendly Framework.

Equally as troubling is that a Planned Parenthood employee who manages their youth educational programs and heads up the Get Real Teen Council is helping write the revised Framework. Planned Parenthood trains the students on the Get Real Teen Council in grades 10-12 to become peer sex educators, who then teach sex ed to students in grades 7-10. One workshop that the Teen Council offers is [“Relationships, Consent, and Communication,”](#)

designed for 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th graders. So, students as young as 15 teach students as young as 12 how to consent to sex. This is outrageous.

Why is it that Planned Parenthood, who stands to profit from a Framework that favors their curriculum, will have more say in what students learn at school than parents? Planned Parenthood benefits financially from sexualizing children. They know that sexually active children will require STI treatments and abortions, services that they sell. Monica Cline, a former Planned Parenthood sex educator, describes the organization's educational programs as ["the perfect business plan for lifelong customers."](#)

- 13. "While the issues raised by sex education are always delicate, the bill was adopted by a bipartisan vote of 33-2 in the senate."** It is unconscionable that our elected officials passed such an awful piece of legislation that will harm children and silence parents.

[Planned Parenthood's Action Fund Page](#) describes how they categorize our elected officials:

"Champion: A legislator who has demonstrated leadership on the Advocacy Fund's legislative agenda and works in partnership with us to advance our shared goal to improve access to sexual and reproductive health care and protect the health and rights of Massachusetts residents."

"Ally: A legislator who consistently supports our legislative and policy agenda including protecting access to safe, legal abortion."

Almost every MA Senator who voted in favor of this bill is designated as a "Champion" or an "Ally" by Planned Parenthood.

So, 33 of our MA Senators decided that it was more important to do the will of special interest groups like Planned Parenthood and other allied organizations than to protect the children of the Commonwealth.

Conclusion

Questions to ask your Senator:

Why did you vote in favor of mandating a curriculum that makes kids feel pressured to engage in illegal sexual activity?

Do you think it is age appropriate to teach 12-year olds to use grocery store saran wrap as a prophylactic for oral to anal sex?

Do you think it is healthy to refer teens to resources that encourage "Kinky Sex?"

Have you ever looked at CSE curricula?

Have you ever looked at SRA curricula?

Do you have children of your own? Are you okay with them being taught the material highlighted above?

I attended the debate and the vote on this bill last Thursday. As a mother and an educator, I am appalled that the Senate passed it. It revealed where the Senate's allegiance lies... with Planned Parenthood and special interest and not with the citizens of the Commonwealth.