



WHY WE OPPOSE THE SEX EDUCATION MANDATE

HB544/SB268
AN ACT RELATIVE
TO HEALTHY
YOUTH

1. LOSS OF LOCAL CONTROL 2. GRAPHIC SEXUAL CONTENT 3. LESS TRANSPARENCY
VOTE NO! -> HB544/SB268

The Massachusetts legislature is considering mandating a controversial sex education framework for public schools across the state.

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.***

1. 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.

2. GRAPHIC SEXUAL CONTENT

HB544 and SB268 mandate 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 being 16 years old.***

Children ages 5 - 10 would be required to:

- Learn about “different sexual orientations, gender identities and gender expressions...” This means alternative families headed by same-sex parents or bisexual groupings.
- Define sexual orientation, gender identity using the “correct” terminology, such as “heterosexual, gay, lesbian and bisexual.”

Children ages 11-14 would be taught:

- Acceptance of consensual pre-marital sex.
- Moral acceptance of diverse sexual and gender identifications.
- Methods for avoiding pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

Children ages 11-14 would not be taught:

- The importance of being married prior to engaging in sexual activity.
- The high failure rate of condoms and other methods of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.
- Presentations of fetal development to ensure balance in any discussion that educates children on how to obtain an abortion.

It grants DESE full authority to require classes for children as young as 12 years old to teach:

- **How to obtain an abortion without parental consent or knowledge.**
- **How to engage in “safe” anal sex and oral sex.**
- **Encouragement of alternative sexual behaviors to avoid pregnancy.**

3. LESS TRANSPARENCY

The current MA sex ed law includes a provision for parents and any member of the public to view sex ed curricula used in any MA school district. HB544 and SB268 remove the ability for anyone other than parents or caregivers with students enrolled in a district to examine curricula. This means a concerned faith leader or grandparent who does not have children attending their district schools would be forced to submit a public record request to view curricula. School districts use many tactics to avoid providing the information requested.

In addition, this bill specifically requires classes to include “affirmative recognition that people have different sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.” 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.***

Visit mafamilly.org/takeaction to learn how to oppose this bill.