



February 24, 2021

Minnesota State House Preventative Health Policy Committee
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Members,

On behalf of children and families across the state, we at Minnesota Family Council **urge you to oppose House File 358.**

Every child deserves an education that is suited for their specific needs and development as guided by their parents, and which protects them, especially at a young age, from graphic sexual material. HF 358 would gut this protection for Minnesota's students. Additionally, HF 358 presents a politicized and one-sided plan for sexual education, which includes the promotion of abortion and controversial ideas about sexual orientation and gender identity.

Even more concerning is the lack of parental notification in this legislation. Parents are the stewards of their children's education and play a vital role in their academic success. By not specifically notifying them of sensitive or explicit subject matter in the classroom, HF 358 undermines the ability of parents to help their children understand issues in ways that are age-appropriate and considerate of the family's unique background.

This legislation promotes explicit and graphic sexual imagery for young students and makes reference to abortion ("bodily autonomy") as a valid option, something that is deeply contradictory to the deeply held and valid beliefs of many Minnesotans. This bill even allows for this explicit content to be presented by outside "community organizations" who are not associated with the school district.

Finally, comprehensive sex education (CSE) has been shown not to lower rates of teen pregnancy or STD infections when compared with Sexual Risk Avoidance education. In other words, in addition to the issues many parents have with the content of the curricula, CSE does not succeed in its main objectives in other states where it has been used. I urge you to protect Minnesota students by opposing this harmful and radical sexual health education program.

Sincerely,
Veronica Missling
Acting Public Policy Director