

February 23, 2021

Minnesota House Preventative Health Policy Committee Chair Mike Freiberg and Committee Members:

HF 358 has been introduced, and on 2/18/21 was referred to the House Preventative Health Policy Division Committee. HF 358, the so-called 'Sexual Health Education' bill, is very similar to such a bill introduced in 2019. I was opposed to the bill then, and am opposed to HF 358 now.

HF 358 mandates comprehensive sexual health education (CSE) programs for Minnesota K-12 schools. Many parents, families, and the community at large have no idea about the nature of the change in classroom teaching about sex proposed to be mandated. When parents do find out about CSE, many are shocked and opposed to CSE, and proposed legislation such as HF 358.

This legislation does not respect the expectations of many families and religious teachings. Young people (including young children) are being encouraged to consider sexual activity as their 'right,' regardless of whether their parents and church teachings attempt to direct them otherwise.

CSE curriculum focuses on the "conscious and voluntary agreement" of minors to be sexually active. The focus is not on the essential importance of saying no, rather than giving implicit permission to say yes.

CSE sexualizes children, removes boundaries, and encourages sexual exploration in graphic detail. Oral, anal and vaginal sex are presented as equivalent options as long as they are done 'safely.' Sexual activity is never safe for minors. For example, minors will inevitably misuse birth control. And Planned Parenthood, the biggest abortion committer in Minnesota, is also the biggest advocate for CSE and for sexualizing children. Abortion is a business plan for Planned Parenthood and HF358 conveniently allows them into the classroom as unlicensed CSE teachers.

This bill also appears to override some of the local control of school districts.

I, like the majority of Minnesotan's, feel this bill is dangerous to the health and safety of Minnesotans now and in the future, and don't want this bill.

Please reconsider the consideration of, and stop any further action, on HF 358.

Sincerely,

(signed/submitted electronically)

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