
ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1178

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Schual-Berke, Skinner, Cody, Hankins, Moeller, Chase, Darneille, Upthegrove, Hunt, McCoy, Grant, Cooper, Clibborn, Ruderman, Kenney, Wallace, Lantz, Hudgins, Pettigrew, Morrell, McDermott, Jarrett, Romero, Haigh, Hunter, Kagi, Conway and Simpson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to medically accurate information in sex education
2 courses; adding a new section to chapter 70.54 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) It is essential for the health and safety of the young people
7 of Washington state that they receive medically and factually accurate
8 and objective information about sexuality, pregnancy, and sexually
9 transmitted diseases;

10 (2) Effective sexuality education discussing condoms and
11 contraception helps delay the onset of sexual activity, reduce the
12 frequency of sex, and reduce the number of sexual partners; and

13 (3) Medically accurate information in sex education has contributed
14 to a recent decline in Washington state's teen pregnancy rate and can
15 reduce human suffering and health care costs by minimizing sexually
16 transmitted diseases.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54 RCW
2 to read as follows:

3 (1) As used in this section, "medically accurate" means verified or
4 supported by research conducted in compliance with scientific methods
5 and published in peer-review journals, where appropriate, and
6 recognized as accurate and objective by professional organizations and
7 agencies with expertise in the relevant field, including the American
8 college of obstetricians and gynecologists, the department of health,
9 or the centers for disease control and prevention.

10 (2) In educational programs paid for in whole or in part with
11 public funds for use in public schools or elsewhere, information given
12 about sexual anatomy, sexual physiology, and reproductive health shall
13 be medically accurate. Medically accurate sex education shall present
14 information that abstinence from sexual intercourse is the most
15 effective means to prevent unwanted teenage pregnancy, sexually
16 transmitted diseases, and human immune deficiency virus when
17 transmitted sexually. Sex education including abstinence only
18 curriculum that provides students with information regarding failure
19 and success rates of condoms and other contraceptives in preventing
20 pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases shall
21 provide medically accurate information on such rates.

22 (3) School districts retain the discretion of selecting what
23 curriculum to use.

24 (4) All material and instruction in classes that teach sex
25 education and discuss sexual intercourse shall be age appropriate.

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