

---

HOUSE BILL 2789

---

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2004 Regular Session

By Representatives Schual-Berke, Armstrong, Chase, Tom, Hunt, Jarrett, Cooper, Hankins, Cody, Darneille, Edwards, Clibborn, Simpson, G., Kirby, Moeller, Nixon, Rockefeller, Lantz, Conway, Morrell and Kagi

Read first time 01/20/2004. Referred to Committee on Health Care.

1 AN ACT Relating to health information for youth; adding a new  
2 section to chapter 70.24 RCW; and creating new sections.

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

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that it is a  
5 public health priority for young people to acquire the knowledge and  
6 skills necessary for healthy development. Sexually transmitted  
7 diseases, HIV infection, and unintended pregnancy do not contribute to  
8 the healthy development of young people in Washington state. Yet,  
9 rates of teen pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV  
10 infection among young people in this state are unacceptably high.

11 (2) Over twelve thousand girls who are nineteen years old and  
12 younger become pregnant in Washington every year. Fifteen through  
13 nineteen year old girls have the highest chlamydia and the  
14 second-highest gonorrhea infection rates among all age groups in this  
15 state. Levels of chlamydia infection are likely equally high among  
16 Washington's teen boys, who experience a disparity in screening. It is  
17 also estimated that half of all new HIV infections in this country now  
18 occur among people aged twenty-five and younger.

1 (3) Washington's adolescent health issues, like teen pregnancy and  
2 sexually transmitted diseases, must be addressed with comprehensive  
3 prevention efforts. The legislature intends to enhance the healthy  
4 development of young people in Washington state by taking opportunities  
5 to provide them with information needed to help reduce rates of teen  
6 pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and HIV infection.

7 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.24 RCW  
8 to read as follows:

9 (1) Students receiving health instruction paid for in whole or in  
10 part with public funds may receive health information and disease  
11 prevention instruction.

12 (2) For the purposes of this section, "health information and  
13 disease prevention instruction" means medically and scientifically  
14 accurate curricula and information related to sexual activity that:

15 (a) Is age appropriate;

16 (b) Encourages communication with parents and other trusted adults;

17 (c) Is respectful of the needs, attitudes, and perspectives of  
18 individuals and communities;

19 (d) Encourages young people to develop and apply health-promoting  
20 behaviors including disease prevention and detection and accessing  
21 accurate health information;

22 (e) Teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only sure  
23 way to avoid pregnancy and reduce the risk of sexually transmitted  
24 diseases;

25 (f) Stresses the value of abstinence while addressing the health  
26 needs of youth who are sexually active;

27 (g) Provides information about the health benefits and side effects  
28 of contraceptives and barrier methods as a means to prevent pregnancy  
29 and reduce the risk of sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS;

30 (h) Provides information about the stages, patterns, and  
31 responsibilities associated with growth and development;

32 (i) Promotes the development of interpersonal skills including a  
33 sense of dignity and self-worth and the communication, decision-making,  
34 assertiveness, and refusal skills necessary to reduce health risks and  
35 choose healthy behaviors; and

36 (j) Helps young people develop and maintain healthy, respectful,  
37 and meaningful relationships.

1        NEW SECTION.   **Sec. 3.**   The department of health shall work in  
2   consultation with the office of the superintendent of public  
3   instruction to develop guidelines for health information and disease  
4   prevention instruction under section 2 of this act.

--- END ---