
SENATE BILL 5314

State of Washington

58th Legislature

2003 Regular Session

By Senators Thibaudeau, Winsley, Haugen, Horn, Regala, Fairley, Keiser, B. Sheldon, Kohl-Welles, Finkbeiner, Spanel, Eide, Franklin, T. Sheldon, Fraser, Jacobsen, Kline, Poulsen and Prentice

Read first time 01/22/2003. Referred to Committee on Education.

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 programs discussing condoms and
11 contraception help 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 classes has
14 contributed to a recent decline in Washington state's teen pregnancy
15 rate and can reduce human suffering and health care costs by minimizing
16 sexually transmitted diseases.

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

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

8 (2) All sexuality education courses paid for in whole or in part
9 with public funds for use in public schools or elsewhere shall provide
10 medically accurate information.

11 (3) In addition to medically accurate information, sex educators
12 shall present information that abstinence from sexual intercourse is
13 the most effective means to prevent unwanted teenage pregnancy,
14 sexually transmitted diseases, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome
15 (AIDS) when transmitted sexually. Sex educators shall provide students
16 with statistics based on the latest medical information that cite
17 failure and success rates of condoms and other contraceptives in
18 preventing pregnancy, AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases.

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

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