

# SUPPORT SB 3788: THE HEALTHY YOUTH ACT

SPONSORS: Villanueva

Inclusive, affirming, and comprehensive sexual health education provides youth the full toolbox of knowledge and skills needed to support responsible and informed decisions about their health to reduce harm and support overall well-being throughout their entire lives.

**The Healthy Youth Act removes outdated, stigmatizing language and builds on the current standards for health and sexual health education courses by including:**

- puberty, growth, and adolescent development
- anatomy and physiology
- healthy relationships and friendships
- healthy decision-making
- personal safety
- pregnancy and reproduction
- effective communication
- gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation

The Healthy Youth Act expands the current requirement that instruction be medically accurate, developmentally and age appropriate to include instruction that is also culturally and linguistically appropriate and adapted for students with disabilities and non-English speaking students.

**The Healthy Youth Act ensures that sexual health education in Illinois is inclusive and affirming of communities who historically have been stigmatized or excluded including LGBTQIA and pregnant or parenting youth.**

| How does the current law and the Healthy Youth Act compare?   | Current Law                         | Healthy Youth Act                   |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Applies to 6th through 12 <sup>th</sup> grade*  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| No mandate for sexual health education<br>Only <u>if</u> schools are already providing sexual health education, <u>then</u> these standards apply             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Allows parents or guardians to request copies of instructional materials and choose to opt their child out of instruction without penalty                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Requires instruction on both abstinence and scientifically accepted contraceptive methods to prevent and reduce unintended pregnancies and STIs including HIV | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Requires the Illinois State Board of Education to make model instruction materials available on its website   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Removes outdated, stigmatizing language   | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Instruction is inclusive and affirming of all identities  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Requires curriculum to also be culturally and linguistically appropriate  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Provides critical knowledge and skills to support responsible and informed decisions about health and overall well-being (listed above)                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

**\*If sexual health education courses are taught in grades 5 and under, they must be age-appropriate, medically accurate, evidence-based or evidence-informed, and culturally, developmentally, and linguistically appropriate.**

For more information, contact:

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## Supporting Organizations

American Association of University Women

ACLU of Illinois

ACLU of Illinois – Champaign Chapter

AIDS Foundation of Chicago

Affinity Community Services

Chicago Abortion Fund

Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center

Chicago Women’s Health Center

Comprehensive Sex Ed Now

EverThrive Illinois

Girls Inc. of Chicago

Howard Brown Health Center

Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health

Illinois National Organization for Women

Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, a program of the Public Health Institute of Metropolitan Chicago

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

National Council of Jewish Women – North Shore

Peer Health Exchange

Pride Action Tank

Religious Coalition for Reproductive Health

Resilience (formerly Rape Victim Advocates)

Teen Health Council

University of Illinois Chicago – Urban Medicine Program

YWCA Evanston/Northshore

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