

# VOTE YES ON HB 2675

## Medically Accurate, Age-Appropriate, Complete Sexual Health Information

Senate Sponsors: Steans-Holmes-Jones-Bush

### What HB 2675 Does

- **Creates a standard for existing sexual health education courses taught in grades 6-12.**
- **Provides medically accurate, age-appropriate, complete information on reducing STDs, STIs, and unintended pregnancies: including information on abstinence, contraception, healthy relationships and boundary setting.**
- **Ensures Local Control: Allows local school districts to choose curricula.**
- **Allows for parental opt out: Parents can remove their children from sexual health education courses for any reason.**

### Why We Need HB 2675

Throughout the state, youth, including youth in grades 6-12, face STDs, STIs and unintended pregnancies. Providing complete, medically accurate, age-appropriate health information will likely result in decreased STD, STI, and unintended pregnancy rates for Illinois youth.

**Unintended Pregnancies:** Illinois has the **21st** highest pregnancy rate in the U.S. among teenagers (ages 15-19 years).

**STDs and STIs:** Illinois has seen an increase of sexually transmitted diseases, particularly among youth. The high rates of STDs and STIs are not unique to just one county - it is a statewide problem.

### What HB 2675 Does Not Do

- HB 2675 **IS NOT** a mandate and does not require schools to teach sexual health education: *IF* a public school chooses to teach sex education, *THEN* the program must be medically accurate, developmentally and age appropriate and complete.
- HB 2675 **DOES NOT** penalize a student if her/his parent chooses to opt the student out of any or all sexual health education courses.
- HB 2675 **DOES NOT** apply to private or religious schools.

### Organizations Supportive of HB 2675

ACLU of Illinois	Illinois Safe Schools Alliance
AIDS Foundation of Chicago	Illinois State Medical Society
American Academy of Pediatrics, Illinois Chapter	Lake County Health Department/Community Health Center
American Association of University Women	League of Women Voters of Illinois
Chicago Abortion Fund	Lee County Public Health Department
Chicago Black Gay Men's Caucus	Lutheran Advocacy - Illinois
Chicago Department of Public Health	McHenry County Citizens for Choice
Chicago Foundation for Women	Midwest Access Project
Chicago Women's Health Center	Mujeres Latinas en Acción
Cook County Department of Public Health	National Coalition of American Nuns
DuPage County Health Department	National Council of Jewish Women - IL State Policy Advocacy Committee
DuPage County NOW	Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group	Ounce of Prevention Fund
Illinois Academy of Family Physicians	Personal PAC
Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators	Planned Parenthood of Illinois
Illinois Association of School Social Workers	Protestants for the Common Good
Illinois Choice Action Team	Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault	Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition	The Civil Rights Agenda
Illinois National Organization for Women	The Women's Health Foundation
Illinois Public Health Association	

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How HB 2675 Changes Current Law		
Sex Education in Illinois Schools	Existing Law	HB 2675
<b>Who is covered</b>		
Applies specifically to grades 6-12.	Yes	Yes
Applies only to schools that currently offer sex education.	Yes	Yes
Mandates that sex ed be taught in all school.	No	No
<b>Parental Involvement &amp; Opt-Out</b>		
Parents and guardians can examine the materials used in classes.	Yes	Yes
Students are not required to participate if parents object and opt-out.	Yes	Yes
Opt out option available without penalty to student.	Yes	Yes
<b>Information Provided</b>		
Provides instruction on the prevention of HIV/AIDS.	Yes	Yes
Provides students with the statistics on failure and success rates of condoms in preventing STDs and HIV/AIDS.	Yes	Yes
Identifies the various forms of contraception available to prevent pregnancy.	No	Yes
Provides students with the statistics on failure and success rates of various forms of contraceptives in preventing pregnancy.	No	Yes
Provides instruction on <b>both</b> abstinence and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS.	No	Yes
Emphasizes abstinence as the only protection that is 100% effective against unwanted teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and AIDS when transmitted sexually.	Yes	Yes
Affirms the decision to be abstinent.	Yes: "abstinence is the expected norm"	Yes: "abstinence is a responsible and positive decision"
<b>Course Material Content and Instruction Must:</b>		
Be age appropriate, i.e. suitable to particular age groups based on the cognitive, emotional and behavioral capacity for that age group.	Yes	Yes
Be medically accurate, i.e. information must be accurate, objective and complete.	No	Yes
Be complete, i.e. must include education on abstinence, pregnancy, family planning, and sexual transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS.	No	Yes
Replicate evidence based programs or substantially incorporate elements of evidence based programs.	No	Yes
Teach respect and honor for monogamous heterosexual marriage	Yes	Yes
Place substantial emphasis on abstinence, including abstinence until marriage, and contraception for the prevention of pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.	No	Yes
Only stresses that students should abstain from sexual intercourse until they are ready for marriage.	Yes	No
<b>Resources Available</b>		
State Board Of Education is required to make resource materials available on its Internet site.	No	Yes
<b>Local Control</b>		
Explicitly allows local school districts to choose and adapt the curriculum that meets the specific needs of their community.	No	Yes