

Opponent Testimony LR334

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As a mother, and someone who works with women and families throughout the nation, I am addressing the committee today to publically profess my opposition to Comprehensive Sex Education.

As a mother, I have the responsibility for the education, care and nurture of my children. In the past few weeks I have had to have some difficult conversations with my 11 year-old son. Recent news stories generated questions “what does transgender mean,” “what is abortion”. I will admit my knee-jerk, momma bear, reaction was to tell my son as little as possible and shield him from things he shouldn’t have to deal with or even know about at his young age. But the fact that he was asking the question clearly indicated the protective shield had already been penetrated and I was just grateful he felt comfortable enough to come to *me* with his question.

It allowed me to take the time to wrap my arms around my son and lovingly explain very difficult things from the perspective of our faith and family values. That is my place as a mother. It is my husband’s place as his father. It is not the role of the government or society to raise my children. Schools, churches, community organizations are all there to support our role as parents not replace us and that is my first and fundamental issue with sex education of any kind. It does not belong in the schools, it belongs in the homes. If education and support is needed it should be offered to the parents as a way to help their children, not forced on our children in spite of their parents; and certainly no in the form that LR334 promotes.

Comprehensive Sex Education or CSE doesn’t educate children on sex, it promotes it--in every form. According to the Planned Parenthood website¹, the biggest proponent of CSE , Comprehensive Sex Education is better than other programs because it includes broader topics like “sexual behavior, sexual orientation, and sexual pleasure; stating that “Ideally, sex education in school is an integrated process that builds upon itself year after year, is initiated in kindergarten, and is provided through grade 12.”

I don’t want someone instilling their values on my children on sexual orientation or behavior and I certainly don’t want my 11 year-old being taught about sexual pleasure. School is an absolutely inappropriate forum for such discussions. Not only is it inappropriate, it is pre-sexualizing our children—imposing ideas, images and stimulus they aren’t ready to deal with.

CSE doesn’t talk about intimacy, marriage or even relationships. It strips all beauty from sexual intimacy and degrades it to a bodily function of self-gratification. This sets our children up to fail. We saturate them with sex, telling them there are no limits, it’s perfectly normal, do it whenever you want, however you want and with whomever you want. And then, when they act on the stimulus we bombard them with we label them as sex offenders and throw them in prison.

The biggest problem with Comprehensive Sex Education is that it has no value attached. The body isn’t treated as sacred. It doesn’t teach kids about relationships, or the importance of

communication outside of sex. It just promotes the act of sex, reducing it to the bodily function of a bowel movement.

Proponents of CSE throw out a lot of statistics they say back up the effectiveness of these kinds of programs but the fact is, in all the clinical research articles² I have read on the subject, the researchers mention multiple possible factors for the decline in teen sex ranging from family relationships to the economy, and state they don't really know the reason. And yet, almost every article I read concludes the answer must Comprehensive Sex Education, completely ignoring the entire premise and results of their own research.

In contrast to this, there is ample research to sustain the concern of parents that early exposure to sexual content is harmful to our children. In her article³ "Overexposed and Under-prepared" Dr. **Carolyn C. Ross addresses some of these harmful effects stating**, "The earlier a child is exposed to sexual content and begins having sex, the likelier they are to engage in high-risk sex. According to some studies, early exposure (by age 14) to pornography and other explicit material may increase the risk of a child becoming a victim of sexual violence or acting out sexually against another child."

Maybe that accounts for the rise in juvenile sex offenses and why they offenders keep getting younger.⁴

Sex education belongs in the home, with parents. Comprehensive Sex Education doesn't belong anywhere. As a mother and citizen of Nebraska, I ask you to consider the unintended consequences of such a dangerous program and vote no on any legislation promoting it.

1. Implementing Sex Education, Planned Parenthood Website

<https://www.plannedparenthood.org/educators/implementing-sex-education>

2. What Is Behind the Declines in Teen Pregnancy Rates?

Heather D. Boonstra; Guttmacher Policy Review; Summer 2014, Volume 17, Number 3

<http://www.guttmacher.org/pubs/gpr/17/3/gpr170315.html>

3. Overexposed and Under-Prepared: The Effects of Early Exposure to Sexual Content

Carolyn C. Ross M.D., M.P.H.

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/real-healing/201208/overexposed-and-under-prepared-the-effects-early-exposure-sexual-content>

4. Sex offenders get younger more violent

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/sex-offenders-get-younger-more-violent/>