



**Massachusetts
Family Institute**

Dedicated to Strengthening the Family

Issue in Focus

Oppose HB 597: Mandating sex education in the MA Health Curriculum Frameworks

Children Ages 5 to 10 will be required to:

- Describe “different types of Families,” addressing membership and social influences. This means primarily alternative families headed by same-sex parents.

- Define sexual orientation using the “correct” terminology, such as “heterosexual, gay, and lesbian.”

Children Ages 11 to 14 would be required to know:

- Behaviors and methods for pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease prevention.

- The types of sexually transmitted diseases.

What would Not be Taught

- Refusal skills that equip young individuals to abstain from sexual activity regardless of age.

- The importance of being in a marriage and/or a monogamous relationship prior to engaging in sexual activity.

- The high failure rate of condoms and other methods of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

- Presentations of fetal development to ensure balance in any discussion that educates children on how to obtain an abortion.

For a more comprehensive guide to the problematic nature of the Health Curriculum, please see the Mass Citizen’s for Life’s publication: “What Parents Should Know about the Massachusetts Health Curriculum Frameworks,” available at:

www.masscitizensforlife.org

The Massachusetts legislature is considering a proposal to mandate a particular sex education curriculum for schools across the state. Unlike topics such as math and science, there is no public consensus regarding sex education. Currently the Health Curriculum Frameworks are available to school districts and educators, but each school system is free to customize them based on the needs of their student populations and parents. HB 597 would eliminate that option.

Loss of Local Control

If adopted, the Health Curriculum Framework would remove control of health education from locally elected school committees, eliminating any flexibility for educators and parents.

It would also eliminate choices regarding WHEN sensitive topics are taught to young children, removing power from parents and educators to make these decisions based on their knowledge of the school system and its population.

It would leave no recourse for parents who want to be the primary educators of their children on sexual topics, and impose a certain moral viewpoint with which most parents would disagree.

Problematic Topics Required

The curriculum mandates instruction on several topics that the average parent or school committee member would find objectionable. Many of the required topics are designed to be taught in a way that conveys implicit approval of sexual activity among very young students, despite the legal age of consent of 16 years old.

It requires that classes provide children as young as 11 years old with the following information:

- How to obtain an abortion without parental consent or knowledge.
- How to obtain contraceptives without parental consent or knowledge.
- Encouragement of alternative sexual behaviors to avoid pregnancy.
- Teaching acceptance of homosexuality as normal, natural, and healthy, thereby potentially contradicting the religious teachings of parents, and restricting their rights to determine the moral upbringing of their children.

Please oppose HB 597 and any other efforts to remove control of health education from local parents and school boards.

Massachusetts Family Institute is a non-profit research and education organization dedicated to strengthening the family and affirming the Judeo-Christian principles upon which it is based. As a leading pro-family voice in the Commonwealth, the organization informs, equips and encourages citizens to rebuild communities in which families are valued and nurtured.