

**Lisa Cataldi**

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**From:** Mike Byrn <mtbyrnes46@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 1:25 PM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** Opposition to House 5604

I am strongly opposed to House Bill 5604. I do not believe that comprehensive sex education to children in the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades is the state's responsibility. My understanding is that this material may be explicit, and it should be left up to parents to teach their children – and not the responsibility of public-school teachers. Teaching basic health and physical fitness are the public school's responsibility.

Teaching children that affirmatively recognizes pleasure based sexual relations and about different sexual orientations inclusive of same-sex relationships does not seem appropriate in a public school.

Furthermore, such an effort at a time when the achievement levels in most RI public schools indicate that we are failing our youth in a most serious way, makes efforts like House 5604 look most unserious, if not trivial. When Providence schools and many other districts are not providing our youth with anything resembling a functioning education. Bill 5604 is a bit like Nero fiddling while Rome burns.

I strongly urge all members of the Rhode Island House Education Committee to vote NO on this HR 5604 which seeks to amend RIGL 16-22-18 – health and family life courses. It is simply inappropriate, and it is a misapplication of scarce resources at a time when there ought to be laser-like focus on improving achievement.

Sincerely,

Michael T. Byrnes  
Bristol District 69