

## **Lisa Cataldi**

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**From:** Paula MacDonald <troppo513@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 3, 2021 8:27 AM  
**To:** House Education Committee  
**Subject:** House Bill No. 5604 - An Act Relating to Education

To: House Education Committee

Paula MacDonald, West Kingstonsl, RI – House Bill No 5604, An Act Relating to Education – AGAINST

I respectfully submit this written testimony in opposition to the House bill 5604. The amendments proposed by the sponsors of this bill I view as an abomination. The added language is evil enough as it is, but to extend this comprehensive sex education drivel to children in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades is beyond the pale.

I really do not know what motivates the sponsors of such legislation to believe it is at all appropriate to engage young children at the grade school or even high school age for that matter in such sensitive, explicit and potentially inflammatory subject matter. Teaching basic health and physical fitness are the extent that public schools should go to educate young public school children in the health field. Explicit sexual material and practices must be left up to parents to teach their children – and not delegated in any way to public school teachers, staff and administration.

What exactly is behind the push by some legislators and school administrators to teach children about affirmatively recognizing pleasure based sexual relations and experiences? How is it the responsibility of public schools to teach minor children about different sexual orientations and to be inclusive of same-sex relationships? Why is it in any way necessary or desirable to have comprehensive course instruction include gender, gender expression, gender identity and the harm of negative gender stereotypes? Are these not areas of learning better left to parents for raising their children?

It is my strong belief that elected and appointed officials of government have lost their way and somehow have come to believe that they know better than all others including those with primary responsibility for raising and educating their children on matters of faith and morals – the parents.

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 wrong and perverted.

Respectfully,

Paula MacDonald  
West Kingston