

House Committee on Education Testimony for
H5837 AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM {LC1444/1}

Name: Eloise Narrigan
Bill Number: H5837
Viewpoint: AGAINST

My name is Eloise Narrigan. I am a constituent in Providence, Rhode Island.

I attended high school in Massachusetts, and switched schools halfway through high school. As a result, I missed about half of the state curriculum on sexual education. While I have, in the intervening years, been able to educate myself, the gap in my schooling did have a negative effect; I was missing the background and vocabulary that would have been useful at that time.

I missed these lessons due to circumstance, not any ideological viewpoints from my family, but the effect was still negative. It is with this background that I am writing strongly against this bill. Students need age-appropriate sex education, and parents that strongly object are already able to opt out.

The bill also places an unreasonable burden on teachers and administrators to secure consent regarding curriculum from parents. It would act as soft censorship on issues that have become cultural flashpoints, including LGBTQIA+ identities.

I am whole-heartedly against H5837 and ask that you not entertain this bill.