

My name is Joanne Rich and I live in Providence. I'm writing IN STRONG OPPOSITION HB 5837 regarding sex education.

I am a retired educator and know from personal experience, that there are myriad reasons why students should have access to sex education, primarily for their own physical safety. Studies have shown that students who don't have access to this vital information are more likely to experience unwanted pregnancies, STIs, and non-consensual sex. Requiring parents to OPT-IN to this curriculum risks many students being deliberately or inadvertently denied this crucial curriculum.

All students should have access to the basic facts of reproduction at the bare minimum and ideally so much more than that, including information about healthy relationships, consent, and about LGBTQ+ health and discrimination prevention.

Thank you,  
Joanne Rich