

To: RI House Committee for Education
From: Joy Lin of Westerly, RI

As a mother of a child attending RI public school, I am asking you to vote AGAINST H5837 and its attempt to limit students' education to sexual health and safety in public schools.

The current policy allows any concerned parent or guardian to opt out of sex ed if they so choose. H5837 sets up an unnecessary hurdle to gain a full consensus of all parents and guardians before a curriculum can be taught, meaning if one parent refuses consent, while 99 other parents agree, then they are effectively denying 99 families and their children access to education that they wish to receive. This is educational censorship, which opens the door of giving undue power to a small group of individuals to exert their influence over the majority.

The current system is a just and fair compromise that allows parents who disagree to opt out, while preserving the ability for others to continue with a curriculum they agree with.

Please vote against H5837. Vote against giving fringe voices power over the majority.

Thank you,
Joy Lin
Westerly, RI