

Lisa Cataldi

From: Libby Merrill <libby.merrill@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 23, 2025 2:56 PM
To: House Education Committee
Subject: Opposition to H5837

Dear Members of the House Education Committee,

I am writing to oppose House Bill H5837, which would require schools to provide parents with the full sexual education curriculum to review before they teach it and require parents to consent.

I am a resident of East Providence, a parent of a public school student, a former teacher, and a former public school student.

This bill is poorly written and lacks detail. It would put way too much of a lift on the school. Parents already have the right to reach out to the teacher or principal to request a summary of the sex ed curriculum being taught and to request their child be exempt.

This bill also lacks the nuance around ages and stages of development that are key to planning sex ed curriculum. In my experience in schools, at younger ages like late elementary and early middle school, schools do inform parents in greater detail. As children age, their autonomy also grows. In-school sexual education is often the only sex ed kids get. Some families may have religious or cultural traditions that make sex taboo to discuss. Sex ed at school may be life-saving for those older teens. Families who have very strong opposition can take the initiative to opt their children out.

Please do not support this bill.

Sincerely,

Libby Merrill
East Providence