

Dear Honorable Members of the House Education Committee,

My name is Noa Brown, and I am writing to express my strong opposition to H5837, which would require parental consent for both the content of and participation in sex education. As a student at Brown University and a member of Sexual Health Advocacy through Peer Education (SHAPE)—a student organization in partnership with Planned Parenthood of Southern New England—I have spent the past three years volunteering weekly to teach sex education in Providence public high schools.

Through this work, I have had the privilege of engaging directly with students across the Providence Public School District—bright, curious, and talented young people who deserve access to comprehensive, evidence-based information about their own bodies, relationships, identities, and sexual health.

I know from first-hand experience the importance of keeping sex education an *opt-out* model. In my time teaching, I have had students reach out to me with deeply personal and urgent questions—about emergency contraception, sexually transmitted infections, sexual assault and consent, and abusive relationships. These are critical topics that students need to understand, but are often uncomfortable or even unsafe to discuss with the adults in their lives. For some, the classroom—among peers and teachers who model comfort, care, and respect—is the only safe space they have to ask these important questions and get honest answers.

The evidence is clear: Sexual education keeps students safe. Young people who receive this education are more likely to delay sexual activity, practice safer sex, and participate in consensual, safe relationships. When we provide students with information about sexual health, we empower them to protect their physical and emotional wellbeing. Every student deserves this knowledge. I urge you to reject H5837.

Thank you for your consideration,
Noa Brown