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Viewpoint (for/against/neither): For

Testimony:

Reluctant to ask his health teacher why he doesn't feel the same attraction to girls that his friends do, he sits with his hands in his pockets. Later, when he searches on the internet for what all of these feelings mean, he finds inappropriate and inaccurate answers to his questions, leaving him even more disconcerted. This is the day-to-day reality for most LGBTQ+ teens attending public high schools. Teachers use the pronouns him and her in every example of a sexual encounter, leaving students who identify as a part of the LGBTQ+ community behind. Mandated public education health courses throughout Rhode Island should include information regarding LGBTQ+ teens in their curriculum. The same information provided to heterosexual students, such as ways to prevent and cope with mental and physical issues, needs to be modified and applied in the lives of teens with all sexual preferences and gender identities.

LGBTQ+ individuals require different information and statistics than straight individuals when in relation to their health and the way in which they produce healthy lifestyles. Increased levels of infection from sexually transmitted diseases exist within the LGBTQ+ community. Individuals that are most immune to receiving a sexually transmitted disease are, in fact, gay men. This fact is commonly known among all individuals, which creates even a greater wonder as to why most schools do not attempt to discuss and lessen this problem. Since there are obviously gay male students in our public schools, it shows questionable morals in a flawed education system. Keeping these children from proper education that could assist them in their future health seems like the whole goal of a health class, so why is such a large part of students

being left out of that? LGBTQ+ teens are also at a higher risk when it comes to cases of sexual harassment, abuse, and assault. LGBTQ+ and cisgender students require separate but equally as in-depth information regarding their health. They both deserve to understand the depth of their health and how to properly take care of themselves.