

Lisa Cataldi

From: House Judiciary Committee
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 2:37 PM
To: Lisa Cataldi
Subject: FW: Testimony from Pamela Shapiro in Support of H-5604

Importance: High

From: Pamela Shapiro [mailto:pamela.shapiro@mail.mcgill.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, March 3, 2021 2:35 PM
To: House Judiciary Committee <HouseJudiciary@rilegislature.gov>
Subject: Testimony from Pamela Shapiro in Support of H-5604

1. Representative Joseph M. McNamara, Chair

House Committee on Education

Wednesday, March 3 2021

Support for H-5604, Relating to Sex Education

Chairman McNamara and Members of the Committee,

My name is Pamela Shapiro and I am writing in support of bill H-5604 which amends Section 16-22-18 of the General Laws to provide that, when courses in family life or sex education are delivered, they are appropriate for and inclusive of the entire population being taught.

This amendment does not impose identities or beliefs on any person or group, nor does it advocate for harmful or inappropriate information to be taught. On the contrary, this amendment sets out that the appropriateness of information taught shall be determined not only in relation to age and development; the appropriateness shall also be determined in relation to culture, gender, and other factors.

Are the representatives opposed to this amendment saying that they wish biased, incomplete, and limited information to be presented on these central topics? The teaching and provision of this information allows young people to take more informed choices throughout their lives. This is precisely the approach that we all value in our society and our classrooms.

H-5604 amends the Rhode Island Board of Education Act for the better, and I ask you to vote in favor of it.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Shapiro

Providence, RI