



February 3, 2021

Chair Joe McNamara
House Committee on Education
Rhode Island State House
82 Smith Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

RE: H5604 on Sexual Education

Dear Chair McNamara:

The Rhode Island Chapter of the National Organization for Women (RI NOW) supports H5604, which makes sexual education and/or family life courses more inclusive and comprehensive for middle and high school students in Rhode Island.

To ensure that young people have healthy and responsible relationships they require sexual education that is accurate. To be accurate for as many students as possible that curriculum also must take into account differences—whether they relate to sexuality, gender identity, race, ethnicity, or other cultural backgrounds. It also means presenting information as age appropriate beginning in sixth grade.

H5604 builds upon previous legislation to incorporate the most comprehensive sexual education possible, including one that discusses the harm of many negative stereotypes when it comes to sexual expression. We know this legislation will make an impact for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration,

Hilary Levey Friedman, PhD
RI Chapter, National Organization for Women

Rhode Island National Organization for Women (RI NOW) is a membership-based advocacy organization with hundreds of members and supporters throughout the state of Rhode Island. We believe that anyone who identifies as a woman deserves equality and equity in political, social, and economic arenas.