

Testimony Opposing SB 121 Tuesday October 29, 2019

To: Chairwoman Lehner and Members of the Committee

From: Kathy Boff, Protect Ohio Children member

My name is Kathy Boff and I am a resident of Ohio and a member of Protect Ohio Children, a group of concerned parents and citizens that advocates to remove obscenity from Ohio classrooms, specifically the removal of Comprehensive Sexuality Education programs (CSE) which, disturbingly, have been found in several of our Ohio school districts.

I oppose SB 121. The vague terminology in SB 121 will most certainly usher in more Comprehensive Sexuality Education programs throughout Ohio schools and will allow the CSE programs now unlawfully in Ohio schools to remain, much to the detriment of Ohio students. CSE programs are child sexual rights based curriculum and lessons that are explicitly erotic and graphic in nature with a disturbing focus on sexual pleasure for children. Parents and guardians often receive benign sounding letters from schools that explain that their children will be taught a specific CSE curriculum that is evidence based, scientifically accurate and age appropriate. These claims are tremendously deceiving. Access to sample CSE curriculums currently being used in Ohio can be found at <http://ohiovaluevoters.org/evidence-cse-in-ohio.html>

International Planned Parenthood Federation, of whom Planned Parenthood Federation of America is a member organization, is one of the largest purveyors of CSE materials in the world. IPPF created guide, Healthy, Happy and Hot; a young person's guide to their rights. Sexuality and Living with HIV, gives us a glimpse into their philosophy on instructing youth on sensitive sex topics. Disturbingly, this guide states that youth have the right not to disclose their HIV status to their sex partner or multiple partners. This guide also reveals to youth that if they wish to get drunk or high before sex, that is their choice.

<https://www.comprehensivesexualityeducation.org/cse-materials-index/healthy-happy-hot/>

The CSE program, F.L.A.S.H. for grades 4-6 recommended resources include It's Perfectly Normal by Robie Harris. It's Perfectly Normal is one of the most explicit sex education books for ages 10 & up. The book contains realistic illustrations of fully nude people of all ages and stages of development. This book also includes illustrations of nude people having sex and other explicit images. <https://www.comprehensivesexualityeducation.org/cse-materials-index/its-perfectly-normal/>

The Institute for Research and Evaluation, evaluating school-based sex education programs for 25 years, did an independent, peer reviewed study of the effectiveness of school-based Comprehensive Sexuality Education programs dated May of 2019. Their US findings are as follows:

VII. CONCLUSIONS An examination of 60 studies vetted by three authoritative agencies, and employing credible outcome criteria (12-month post-program effects for the intended population, net of negative effects), found no effectiveness by U.S. school-based comprehensive sex education (CSE) at decreasing teen pregnancy or STD rates. It also found insufficient evidence of effectiveness at increasing teen abstinence or condom use. There was far more evidence of CSE failure than success and a concerning number of negative effects.

VIII.RECOMMENDATIONS Given the compelling lack of evidence of program effectiveness as measured by standards derived from the field of prevention research, and the concerning rate of harmful effects, we do not recommend comprehensive sex education as a viable public health strategy in U.S. school classrooms. The evidence indicates that a different paradigm is needed to prevent the negative consequences of teenage sexual activity.

A copy of this report can be found here:

<https://www.comprehensivesexualityeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/USReport053119.pdf>

Thank you for your time.