Senate Bill 121 Health Standards for Ohio

Testimony from Linda Harvey, Mission America

[www.missionamerica.com](http://www.missionamerica.com)

Thank you for hearing my testimony today. I speak in opposition to SB 121. It seems well-intentioned, but actually, past history virtually assures this bill will be a convenient tool opening the door to radical, pro-abortion “comprehensive sex education” (CSE) in Ohio schools.

How will that happen? These “standards” are so vague you can drive a truck through them, and hardly mention anything about “health” at all. They seem to be more like activist talking points.

This bill assumes that Ohio schools are teaching nothing about health right now, and that Ohio school districts need to look to a national group for guidance. No, Ohio local school districts are perfectly capable of teaching about nutrition, exercise and other sound health education principles right now to children and are certainly doing so. Is there tangible evidence that schools are negligent here and that there is no expertise here for these issues?

I think this is a solution in search of a problem. Negative health outcomes for Ohio’s young people are much more complicated than the lack of instruction at the primary and secondary school level, so let’s just be frank about that.

So here’s the issue. Do Ohio voters want bureaucrats influenced by the whatever major lobbying influence is in play, developing health lessons behind closed doors?

The current bill is written to allegedly affirm the current “abstinence only” mandate in the Ohio Revised Code, but ignores what will actually happen and in fact, is already happening. Right now, numerous Ohio schools already bypass an abstinence emphasis in favor of medically high risk and sometimes obscene CSE teaching that sends kids to Planned Parenthood as a “valid health resource.”

Curricula like the FLASH program (Cleveland), Making Proud Choices(Cleveland) and others are being taught in Ohio schools. Why? What happened to a clear abstinence mandate? And why doesn’t this bill, if there is such a concern about negative health outcomes, provide penalties and accountability for the flagrant violations of Ohio’s abstinence law ( ORV 3313.6011) already occurring right now?

CSE programs teach that it’s normal for adolescents to engage in anal, oral and vaginal sex and all are normal and equal (this is “inclusive”) and can be managed safely with latex or pills. And this teaching starts in middle school. This is inaccurate, dangerous and irresponsible.

Senate Bill 121 weakens current law and makes more of this high-risk teaching possible because apparently, if a program just mentions abstinence somewhere in a lesson, it passes muster and no one is held accountable for the misleading, life-changing, permanent health consequences that result when children are led into early sexual activity.

And again, if you think this is an exaggeration, it’s already happening. This bill just gives a wink and nod for more unhealthy sex education, and for health programs written by lobbyists.

So I ask you to vote against SB 121, and perhaps develop a bill that really affirms our current abstinence law and doesn’t undermine it.

Thank you.