

Child Protection League  
testimony against CSE: Comprehensive Sexual Health Education  
February 2021

My name is Barbara DeVries. I'm from Minnesota District 18A. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HF358, the mandated comprehensive sexual health education program for Minnesota K-12 schools.

As a wife and a mother of five children, I understand the importance of educating children about human development and educating teens about healthy sexual relationships. Each parent must decide what is appropriate to teach according to the age of the child, as well as their mental and spiritual level of comprehension. Parents already have to be vigilant about what their children are exposed to in our society, on television, on the internet, and even sneaking into children's programming and Disney movies. Parents should be able to count on the teachers of their children to aid them in the job of protecting their children from being exposed to sexual activity before the children are developmentally ready to learn about such a subject.

The curriculum that is being presented today to be adopted as Comprehensive Sexual Health Education is anything but healthy. It is designed to groom children for a life of oversexualized behaviors and abuse. The pornographic illustrations included in these materials is offensive to most adults. Surely children should not be subjected to such graphic images.

Teenagers must be warned about the diseases that may result from engaging in sexual activity. They also must understand the result of pregnancy that is a very difficult consequence in the life of a teen. They are not ready in their teen years to take on the responsibility of parenting an infant or giving their child up for adoption, but such a situation would force them to take up that burden and make those difficult decisions. They must be warned about the effects that abortion brings, in the death of a baby, in the injury that occurs for the young mother, physically, mentally, and spiritually, and the guilt and sorrow that the young mother and father carry. We must share with the teens that joy we experience when we save the gift of sex to be used in the bonds of marriage between one husband and one wife, when a resulting pregnancy is a benefit to the growth of a family.

This curriculum is not only harmful to the children, but also to the teachers who would be forced to use these materials to spread lies to their impressionable students. HF358 would compel teachers to say that boys may choose to be girls, and that girls may choose to be boys. The transgender ideology is a dangerous path toward mental health disorders, abuse of hormone therapy drugs, and even bodily mutilation through surgery on genitalia. This is not healthy. Rather, teachers should teach the children to respect the body they are born with and to give their body proper care.

Parents take care to warn their children about predators. They teach the children just where to punch or kick a kidnapper, where to go for help, what to do and say when someone tries to keep a secret from their parents. God forbid that the teacher the parents trust to educate their child would become one of these predators.

I oppose this bill and urge you to vote no on HF358.