

**To:** Minnesota House of Representatives Committee on Education Policy

**From:** Gaozong Her, Maplewood, ISD 622

My name is Gaozong Her, I am fifteen years old, from Maplewood and a constituent in MN House District 43A represented by Representative Peter Fischer. I am writing in support of House File 358/Senate File 632.

This bill is significant to me, although I have already gone through sex education last year. In my experience, I feel like I got what I needed to know. But in the experience of others that may not be the case. In class, we are only taught about the relationship and sex between straight/heterosexual couples. However, I had a peer who was transgender, and looking back on the course I realize how uncomfortable it must have been for them sitting in that classroom everyday while they were ignored. The teacher had never included people who identified as LGBTQ+ in the curriculum, so while I was benefitted and learned about my body and how to stay in a healthy relationship, my peers and many others in the school were left out of the conversation. Everyone deserves to know the right information specific to them to stay safe. And consequently, our gay and lesbian peers are at higher risk of STD's, which could be prevented if there were just more inclusion in class. This inclusion would have created a much more safe and comfortable environment for me and others. More inclusion would also destroy the bullying and negativity that LGBTQ+ students face in school as well.

The policy stated in HF 358/SF 632 will make sure every Minnesotan student is included when it comes to sex education taught in schools. I ask the members of the Education Policy Committee to consider the safety of every student when voting on this bill. More inclusion in sex education will directly help the current and future generations of Minnesotans. Please support this bill.