

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

Laichia Vang, Little Canada CD 4

My name is Laichia Vang , I am 17 years old, from Little Canada and a constituent in MN House District 42B represented by Representative Jamie Becker-Finn. I am writing in support of House File 358/Senate File 632.

As a young, queer, Asian American woman, I am disappointed at Minnesota's standard for Sex Education. In these classes, students primarily see the curriculum as heteronormative, abstinence focused, and sends the message that anything related to sex is shameful. Comprehensive sex-education is important to me because it is age-appropriate, culturally responsive, LGBTQ+ inclusive, scientifically and medically accurate, shame free, and emphasizes consent & healthy relationships. At my school, there is a lack of proper sex education. Abstinence is portrayed as the only option to be safe, many topics are not included such as consent, anatomy, gender vs sex, abortion, and more, curriculum is taught as if LGBTQIA+ and sexually active students are not in the class therefore does not need to be discussed, and is insensitive which can cause past traumas to resurface. Creating a better, more uniform standards for sex-education in all MN school districts would positively impact young people in Minnesota.

The policy outlined in HF 358/SF 632 directly impacts the lives of young people in Minnesota like me. Please consider the lived experiences I and other youth have shared with you. Increased access to comprehensive, shame free, medically accurate, and culturally responsive sex-education would improve the lives and overall health outcomes of current and future generations of Minnesotans. Please support HF 358/SF 632.

Thank you for your time,

Laichia Vang

