



Testimony on HF358 February 10, 2021

Madam Chair and Representative Jordon, thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HF358, the mandated comprehensive sexual health education (CSE) programs for Minnesota K-12 schools. The Child Protection League Action (CPLA) is a nonprofit that seeks to protect children from exploitation, indoctrination and violence.

After this same legislation passed the House on April 23, 2019, CPLA took this legislation to the public. We distributed tens of thousands of informational literature pieces across the state. We held an over 600-person rally at the Capitol in September, 2019 to oppose this legislation. We accepted dozens of requests for speaking engagements in numerous Minnesota communities and responded to a considerable number of interviews.

Here is what we found. Parents, families, and the community at large had no idea this nature of change in classroom teaching about sex was being considered. The public would not have believed us had we not had the bill and the roll call vote in front of us. They were stunned. They wondered why they had not been consulted or even notified of this pending mandate. They wondered why they had not been provided a chance to speak up.

People became so engaged that they came to us requesting hundreds of pieces of our literature to distribute voluntarily on their own. Some began going door to door in their neighborhoods and distributing them at private and public get-togethers. They were urgent about notifying their families and peers about what the legislature was trying to impose on their children while few were watching.

Subdivision 2(1) of HR 358 states that the CSE curriculum must “respect community values.” Who determines these “community values?” We can assure you that this curriculum mandate does not respect the community values we encountered in the many metro and greater Minnesota communities in which we spoke.

Subdivision 2 (2) states that the CSE curriculum must be responsive to “culturally diverse individuals, families, and communities.” Does this requirement include being responsive to the majority culture and families, or does “culturally diverse” mean being responsive to only those values outside long-standing cultural norms? It was clear to us from our extensive travels and presentations that this legislation does not respect the expectation of many families and religious teachings. In fact, as we studied CSE-identified curriculum, we found that young people are being encouraged to consider sexual activity as their right, regardless of whether their parents and church teachings attempt to direct them otherwise.

“But the legislation doesn’t say that!” Without going into too much detail here, we can say that the meaning of the words used in this legislation can be best understood by looking at CSE curricula that are recommended and used by primary CSE advocates, such as Planned Parenthood, Advocates for Youth, and the Minnesota Department of Education. Words such as “bodily autonomy,” “diverse sexual orientations and gender identities,” and even “abstinence” take on specific meanings that alarm parents.

HF358's definition of the word "consent" betrays the primary focus of CSE. While no one argues that engaging sexually must be clearly consensual, CSE curriculum focuses on the "conscious and voluntary agreement" of minors to be sexually active. We can't help but notice that the focus is not on the essential importance of saying no, rather than giving implicit permission to say yes.

Indeed any reading through CSE curriculum demonstrates that CSE sexualizes children, removes all natural and protective boundaries, and encourages sexual exploration in graphic detail using pornographic illustrations and graphic descriptions. Oral, anal and vaginal sex are presented as equivalent options as long as they are done 'safely.' Sexual activity is never safe for minors. And minors will inevitably misuse birth control. The purveyors of abortion know this and count on this. And no surprise, Planned Parenthood, the biggest abortion provider in the country and in Minnesota, is also the biggest advocate for CSE and for sexualizing children. Abortion is a business plan for Planned Parenthood and HF358 conveniently allows them into the classroom as unlicensed CSE teachers.

Many schools are already teaching CSE without the knowledge of parents in their communities. The public is, however, becoming aware as a result of your attempt to force it into schools all over the state. Minnesota doesn't want this bill, and they won't forget that you want to force it on them, overriding local control of school districts.

Members of the Committee, vote no on HF358.

Thank you.

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