

February 24, 2021

Dear Preventive Health Policy Division of the Minnesota House of Representatives:

Thank you for your public service. Please continue to use your influence for the healthiest future of our state's beautiful children. I write in opposition to the proposed mandate of Comprehensive Sexual Education. I am in support of Rep. Peggy Bennett's amendments of the bill.

Children are society's great "living harvest." These children, our (society's) precious plants, will bear their fruit according to the conditions and soil we (their caretakers, including schools and government) give them. These growing conditions will either help or hurt their growth into a healthy plant, a healthy adult. The conditions for their growth are very important.

Freedom is one of those conditions. But what is freedom? Freedom is the ability to choose between multiple goods, and the ability to reject what is harmful to self or others. A person who is addicted to drugs or sex is not in a state of freedom, but a state of compulsive behavior. Such a person enters a state of freedom when they are freely able to reject the harmful things and choose between goods, for their sake and others.

Freedom is NOT merely the ability to choose good or choose evil. That is rather "free will". Free will exists naturally in humans, unlike animals who are impulsive creatures. When a human chooses an evil, harm comes to self or others. The law exists to preserve the freedom of all persons to choose between goods without harm to oneself or others; it also serves as guard and guide to reasonably limit the free will of individuals from causing harm to self or others. In other words, the law exists to promote the peaceful exercise of freedom. Thus returning to the soil and plants analogy, Law/Policy is the soil we provide for our children to grow, to guide their free will toward true freedom, in peace and security.

CSE is unhealthy soil. CSE as law/policy will actually stunt the growth of our children and produce unhealthy fruit. Why? Because CSE harms. How does it harm? It promotes compulsive behavior and reduces disciplined choice-making, and it grooms as natural a path toward predatory behavior. It holds up as a "good", a false good: sexual looseness and experimentation, for very young children. These are harmful behaviors because they instill selfishness rather than self-discipline and impulsive gratification rather than patience and perseverance. The impacts on individuals and society would be huge: CSE would replace healthy discipline with unhealthy exploration, setting our kids up for a path of irresponsible self-obsession and compulsion rather than a path of virtuous self-giving as responsible citizens of society.

The resulting fruit of this early, CSE-trained behavior includes: unbridled promiscuity, uncommitted dating relationships, STDs, teen and pre-teen pregnancy, unstable parents, and the excessive use of artificial hormones like birth control in growing bodies. Additional fruits of CSE are increased rates of human trafficking, prostitution, sexual abuse and molestation. CSE mimics the grooming behavior of sexual predators by desensitizing them to sexual behavior; a life of use and abuse is a natural fruit of such grooming.

And what is the effect on our children's future marriages and families? Healthy children become healthy parents. But, trained in selfishness, spouses who are the product of CSE will lack the discipline and sacrifice needed for stable families, affecting another generation of children with instability and insecurity. Families have many shapes and sizes today, but commitment, self-discipline, sacrifice, and generosity are virtues of all healthy parents. Generations of our society have been hurt for decades by

increased divorce, separation of parents, lack of commitment of parents, and undisciplined parents.

The habits of adult (or teenage) parents come from their formative years. Habits are formed by following what we perceive as good. If sexual exploration and experimentation are held up through CSE as “goods”, the aforementioned list of society's ills will increase as the direct fruits. Who will be responsible? The government leaders that mandated this dangerous instruction called CSE.

Children's human formation must be guided by goodness and truth and virtue, for their sake and for society's. If the formation of children trains them in vice, those vices will become chains from which the children will not be easily able to break and heal in their adult years.

Society that rejects virtue formation such as chastity and abstinence education and calls a vice a virtue (such as sexual exploration) does our children a disservice for human rights, makes them vulnerable to their passions, discourages discipline and goodness, and prepares them for sexual use and abuse rather than for stable marriages and families.

Even Plato and Aristotle, two of the greatest thinkers and philosophers of civilization, concluded that virtue formation was necessary for individuals to find happiness and for society to flourish, arguing for the sake of the young and future generations, against vice-based societies. Here are a couple of sources on Plato and Aristotle.

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/ethics-virtue/>

<https://bigthink.com/scotty-hendricks/aristotles-11-guidelines-for-living-a-good-life>

Which soil will you provide our children? The soil of a policy that will produce vice, or the soil of a policy that will produce virtue? Decide against CSE. Decide for a virtue-based society. Let us provide our children good soil to grow healthy virtues and true freedom, not trapped in compulsion and bondage. Let us grow virtue-seeking children, not vice-seeking children, for the children's sake, and for the future of our Minnesota.

Thank you for listening. Please continue to use your influence for the healthiest future for our state's beautiful children.

For our children,

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