September 9, 2009

To: Judiciary Committee

From: Helen Crown
9353 Ridge Road
Plymouth, MI 48170

Dear Committee Members,

I am an educator with an *abstinence-centered* message; I focus on teaching the positive consequences of remaining sexually abstinent until marriage while also presenting the negative consequences of sexual activity outside a committed marriage.

I humbly submit my opposition to HB 5163 for the following reasons:

1. As the current law allows, local school districts should have the authority and the discretion to determine whether to teach sexuality education. It should not be mandated by the State of Michigan that a district "shall provide" sexuality education and therefore "shall establish a sex education advisory board" as stated in Section 1507 (4). Students have different needs in different demographic and geographic areas and the parents and administrators of those students understand their needs best.

2. As the current law allows, local school districts should have the authority and the discretion to determine the focus of any sexuality education taught within their district. It should not be mandated by the State of Michigan that the district "shall include comprehensive sexuality education" as stated in Section 1507 (1). District parents and administrators, again, know their students' needs best and are the best persons to determine the focus of any sexuality education within their district.

3. The word "comprehensive" as given in Section 1507 (1) of the proposed HB 5163 is vague in conveying what it will actually require an educator to present. I believe that I currently provide a very *comprehensive* message in teaching the positive consequences of remaining sexually abstinent until marriage while also presenting the negative consequences of sexual activity outside a committed marriage. Does "comprehensive" mean risk reduction or does it mean abstinence-centered? This terminology needs further clarification if it is to be mandated.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and my concerns.

Sincerely,

Helen Crown, MACE
Choose to Wait Educator
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