

Taneeka Hansen

From: Mara Carnahan <maracarnahan@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 8:57 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; representative.gerran.tarr@akleg.gov; Rep. Adam Wool; Rep. Wes Keller; Rep. Jim Colver; Rep. Harriet Drummond; representative.ivy.sponholtz@akleg.gov
Subject: Opposition to SB89/HB352

Honorable Representatives:

I am writing as a mother of teenage boys to express my opposition to SB89 and HB352.

I believe that families and local school districts should have constructive conversations and the right to make decisions about how they want their children and students to be educated in regards to human sexuality.

Taking the right of this important decision away from families and schools by creating legislation at the state level is not appropriate.

In addition, I have great respect for the educators and medical providers who have dedicated their lives to the education and care of our citizenry. To suggest that they could lose their licensure for an infraction related to Planned Parenthood, even inadvertent, seems outrageously punitive and short sighted.

Sex education is a complicated topic for many, but it is a topic that should be addressed at the family and local school level. Do not let the intense dislike of a particular organization impede on my right as a parent to decide if and how my children will be educated about human sexuality in their school.

Please stand up for all parents, and allow us to make these important choices on behalf of our children. Join me in opposition to SB89 and HB352.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Mara Carnahan
Anchorage

April 7, 2016

I implore you to please OPPOSE SB 89 because it would leave our youth and Alaskan communities without recourse. I find it disgraceful and scary that local politicians have created this bill in the first place, demonizing and condemning the very people we trust to provide this necessary education to prevent pregnancy, prevent the spread of disease, prevent sexual assault. Teachers already have a stressful enough job without bludgeoning them with a bill like this. These wasteful and dangerous bills create an environment of fear instead of allowing trained professionals to do the job we hire them to do, nurturing the minds of our students and preparing them to make healthy decisions by providing age appropriate, evidenced based education. As an Intensive Care RN and former forensics nurse who cares for patients, I can tell you first hand we are failing miserably and need to increase public awareness, starting with school age children.---- Educate, not castigate!

As the mother of a 3 year old daughter, I want to believe that the Alaska state board of education will do the right thing and incorporate this proven evidenced based curriculum, not omit it or create unnecessary road blocks such as requiring consent every time reproductive health is discussed. Sticking our head in the sand just simply is not the solution- we should help guide our teachers and provide them with the tools they need in a safe learning environment, which I thought was the purpose of schools in the first place. If we truly care about preventing teen pregnancy, lowering our rates of sexually transmitted disease, stopping sexual assault then we will stop this bill in its tracks. The facts are there. In the countries with the lowest rates of the aforementioned markers, they openingly support and make comprehensive sexual education MANDATORY in the school system. They also recognize the importance of laying the foundation early, not waiting until popular culture "teaches" kids about sexual health. The fact that we still cannot come to a consensus about this subject is not only an embarrassment but unfairly leaves our children inadequately prepared to make the right choices in life.

With the financial crisis facing Alaska, I hardly think that this is a wise and prudent use of our funds. I would much rather see them used them to help cultivate strong, healthy, well informed children. Please OPPOSE SB 89.

Thank you for your time,

Nickol Dameron, RN
Fairbanks

Taneeka Hansen

From: Joann Mitchell <joann.mitchellak@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 07, 2016 10:53 AM
To: Rep. Paul Seaton; Rep. Liz Vazquez; Rep. Neal Foster; Rep. Louise Stutes; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. Geran Tarr; Rep. Adam Wool
Cc: Rep. Matt Claman; Sen. Mia Costello
Subject: SB 89

Dear Committee Members:

Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the public hearing today on SB 89. But I urge you to NOT PASS this bill. The existing rules regarding sex education allow parents to opt-out of the program if they object to the materials being presented in their child's school. The parents have control. This should remain an opt-out program and not be changed to an opt-in. The students most in need of this kind of education, which can help avoid child abuse, unwanted pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and sexual assault, are precisely those least likely to receive parental permission.

This bill would also prevent Planned Parenthood from assisting with the curriculum. Planned Parenthood has the most comprehensive and age-appropriate education for children. There is overwhelming proof that comprehensive sex education delays sexual activity in teenagers, reduces the incidence of teen pregnancy and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, and reduces the incidence of sexual abuse of children. Have you reviewed the material that Planned Parenthood presents? What is it that is so objectionable? I personally support Planned Parenthood, but why not allow each school district to determine what curriculum to use and who is best suited to provide that information? Why take that control away from the school districts?

I hope my concerns will be taken into consideration as you debate this bill.

Joann Mitchell
2521 St. Elias Dr
Anchorage, AK 99517