

From: [Irene Saxton-Opatz](#)
To: [Senate Finance Committee](#); [Sen. Pete Kelly](#); [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#); [Sen. Peter Micciche](#)
Subject: Please Oppose HB 156!!!!
Date: Friday, April 15, 2016 9:48:30 AM

To Whom it May Concern,

Please oppose HB 156, which Senator Mike Dunleavy has amended to include language that would effectively bar nearly all nurses, doctors, pharmacists, and peer educators from teaching sexual health in Alaska schools.

HB 156 would now require all sexual health educators in Alaska public schools to be licensed as a teacher, that the teacher have a contract with the school, and that the curriculum be publicly vetted and approved by the school board. The licensure language is meant by Dunleavy to block Planned Parenthood's educators from classrooms, it would bar anyone who isn't a teacher from instructing on sexual health.

That includes public health nurses, rural family physicians, and teenage peer educators.

By restricting Planned Parenthood's educators, along with nearly all medical providers and peer educators, Dunleavy is once again trying to take away the resources that local communities have across the state.

HB 156 would restrict the options available to parents, teachers, and local communities throughout Alaska, putting students at greater risk for unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

This bill not only restricts Planned Parenthood's educators, but the local educators in our home town. This will be a restriction on free thought, education and public health.

Dunleavy's last attempt to restrict sex ed, SB 89, failed in the House Health and Social Services Committee on Tuesday night. He added this language just 24 hours later to continue his efforts in the final days of session.

Please oppose HB 156 and allow our students to access the information they need. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms. Irene Saxton-Opatz
PO Box 15256
Fritz Creek, AK 99603-6256
(971) 678-1676
irenesaxtonopatz@gmail.com