

**From:** [Sen. Anna MacKinnon](#)  
**To:** [Senate Finance Committee](#)  
**Subject:** FW: HB 156  
**Date:** Friday, April 15, 2016 10:14:39 AM

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**From:** Paige Hodson [mailto:paigeh@alaska.net]  
**Sent:** Friday, April 15, 2016 10:07 AM  
**To:** Sen. Anna MacKinnon <Sen.Anna.MacKinnon@akleg.gov>  
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**Subject:** HB 156

Dear Senator MacKinnon and Committee Members:

I am unable to call in during my work hours, but wanted to strongly assert my opposition to HB 156.

If your goal is truly to prevent abortion, it makes no sense to keep kids uninformed. Parents rights should not trump children's rights to knowledge to keep themselves healthy and safe.

Parents can freely teach their religion and morals at home. But school is for facts and science. In that regard, medically accurate sex education is an appropriate part of science.

You know full well that abortion will exist whether or not Planned Parenthood is the one providing it. The continued demonization of this organization in fact works against minimizing the incidence of abortion. Planned Parenthoods presentations in school do not mention abortion at all and stress healthy relationships and pregnancy prevention.

And this bill goes way too far in banning all medical professionals from teaching the very subject that they have years of specialized education and training in.

No other subjects are treated this way. This is a fear based, politically driven bill that does nothing to help our states childrens.

This is an end-run against failed bill SB 89 is very transparent to the voters. Public testimony has been overwhelmingly in support of Planned Parenthood and in opposition of all of Sen. Dunleavy's bills—SB 89 and 191.

This is not good policy and the majority of your constituents are opposed to this and its companion bills.

As a former head of STAR, you should know more than anyone how important it is that everyone has access to information about healthy relationships, body autonomy and reproductive health.

Here are some several additional reasons to oppose this bill:

- 1) The freedom of association is an individual and a collective right afforded us through the Bill of Rights and the Constitution. This bill and the related bills thwarts that.
- 2) Parents already have the right to opt out of sex ed, but these bills require opting in which is much more difficult for schools to navigate which will prevent kids from getting accurate information to keep themselves healthy and safe.
- 3) You know full well that Planned Parenthood does more to prevent unintended pregnancies than any other organization in the world, yet you keep demonizing them because you don't like a small percentage of what they do
- 4) Teenagers should come to their parents about reproductive issues, but they often don't. Wouldn't you rather they have medically accurate information about STDs and preventing pregnancy?
- 5) Our state has some of the highest rates of sexual abuse, STDs and teen pregnancy. Wouldn't you rather kids know how to keep themselves safe?
- 6) The second half of the Establishment Clause includes the [Free](#) Exercise Clause, which guarantees freedom from governmental interference in both private and public religious affairs of all kinds – Your insertion of your religious beliefs interferes with mine and many others. You are supposed to be upholding the constitution.
- 7) If these bills are passed, they will be challenged and will fail on the grounds of Constitutionality. With a huge budget deficit, you are costing the taxpayer hundreds of thousands of more dollars we don't have.
- 8) You are putting federal education funding at risk
- 9) As a finance committee, this fails to acknowledge that if you eliminate medical professionals who provide this education for free, there is no funding to provide comprehensive, medically accurate sex ed training to certified teachers. The legislature has failed for years to fund comprehensive sex ed in the schools.

10) We are one of the few states in the nation that provides no comprehensive medically accurate sex ed in schools, but we top the scales in terms of STDs, teen pregnancies, child abuse and sexual assault. This is irresponsible and self-defeating.

Thank you for your time.

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