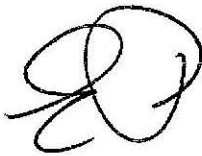


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Rep. Eddie Day Pashinski  
Remarks  
HB 1162



Parental notification of abstinence-only sex education programs in public schools

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- Research shows, and I believe everyone will agree, that parental involvement in a child's education and positive communication between parents and children have a positive impact. It creates sound decision making skills for the children and develops healthy relationships between parents and their kids. For this reason, I believe all parents need to know what their children are being taught in school especially when the subject deals with human life and potential human tragedy.

- Because of a federally sponsored and financially incentivized program, several public school systems chose to accept the federal dollars and teach abstinence only until marriage programs. This program excludes all other types of sexual and reproductive health education. Abstinence only education is only one aspect of the entire issue and parents must know to what degree their children are being exposed to this  
\*  
important subject matter. I believe the vast majority of parents believe their children are being taught medically accurate information designed to protect their children from unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

For these reasons, I have introduced HB 1162 known as the Notice Home Act

- House Bill 1162 would provide for parental notification about abstinence –only sex education programs in public schools. At the beginning of each school year or at the point of a student’s enrollment a notice will be sent home with an opt out form for the parents or guardian to choose their form of action.
- The bill would require school districts to send a notice and parental opt-out form to parents and

guardians of students if the public school receives abstinence –only program funding or teaches abstinence-only programs in grades 6-12.

- The notice must indicate that abstinence only programs do not include. I REPEAR, DO NOT INCLUDE:
  - 1. Education about methods for preventing pregnancy or sexually-transmitted infections by any means other than abstinence.

- 2. Medically accurate instruction providing students with instruction about responsible decision-making regarding relationships and sexuality.
- 3. Make accessible all abstinence-only curricula for parents or guardians who wish to review it.
- The Center for Disease Control estimates that 1 in 4 sexually active teenagers have a sexually transmitted disease, and my estimates indicates that teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease cost Pennsylvania taxpayers as much

as \$380 million a year in social services and health care.

- I am appealing to members of this committee to consider my legislation in order for public schools to switch to a more comprehensive sex education course that includes abstinence-only curriculum.
- I believe parents and guardians are under the assumption that their children are getting a broad based sex education course when in fact that is not the case in some public schools across Pennsylvania.

Chair Clymer

- I thank Chairman Roebuck and the members of the committee for your consideration of HB

1162!

NO ONE WILL DENY THE FACT THAT THE ONLY SURE FIRE WAY TO PREVENT SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES AND UNWANTED PREGNANCIES IS ABSTINENCE

The Second Best way to prevent STD's and Unwanted pregnancies is to acquire Knowledge. Medically Accurate information provided ~~through~~ by qualified educators to teach our children the safeguards and dangers relating to sex education.

I ask the committee to carefully consider my legislation and I will make myself available for further questions or discussions.

Thank you  
Ed Pashinski

## **Johns Hopkins Study**

A study released in December 2008 by the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health showed that teenagers who pledge to remain abstinent until marriage were just as likely to engage in sexual activity as those who do not make this pledge. Even more alarming, those who made "virginity pledges" were significantly less likely to use condoms and other forms of birth control.

## **Journal of Adolescent Health**

Adolescents receiving comprehensive sex education had a substantially lower risk of teenage pregnancy than students who received either abstinence-only education or no education at all, according to a new, groundbreaking study published in the Journal of Adolescent Health in March 2008.

## **Mathematica Study**

An April 2007 study conducted by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., found that abstinence-only programs had no effect on the sexual abstinence of youth. The study also showed that students who attended abstinence-only programs were no more likely to delay sexual activity or have fewer partners.

## **Emerging Answers**

A national report, Emerging Answers 2007, was released on November 6, 2007 by Douglas Kirby, Ph.D., and the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy. The report showed that abstinence-only programs are ineffective and that comprehensive sex education programs, including information about both abstinence and contraception, are effective.

## **Waxman Report**

A December 2004 report from Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA) shows that the most popular federally-funded abstinence-only sex education curricula contain pervasive errors and misinformation on a wide range of important sexual and reproductive health issues, including:

- grossly underestimating the effectiveness of condoms and other contraceptives in preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections (STIs);
- making false claims about the physical and psychological risks of abortion;
- offering misinformation on the incidence and transmission of STIs;
- replacing scientific facts with religious views and moral judgments; and
- distorting medical evidence and basic scientific facts.

## **Centers for Disease Control**

In 2004, the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Protection (CDC) released data showing that sex education programs do work to help discourage many teens from becoming sexually active before age 15.

## **Penn State University**

Study in 2002 evaluated Pennsylvania's Abstinence Only Programs found:

Youth desire more information on contraception.

As a whole, this initiative was largely ineffective in reducing sexual onset and promoting attitudes and skills consistent with sexual abstinence.