

LD 254  
AN ACT TO UPDATE THE SEX EDUCATION AND CONSENT CURRICULUM

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and members of the Committee,

My name is Abigail Beal of Cherryfield, Maine. First, I want to thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. I appreciate your time.

I am here in strong opposition to LD 254.

But I also want to express my concern over the lack of transparency in regard to this bill. As members of the committee have already heard from me, the public cannot effectively comment on an empty concept draft. And even after concern was raised, the proposed text still has not been made available on the Legislature's website or sent out to subscribers of the Education Committee email list (*as of this morning – the day of the hearing*).

As Representative Worth and I communicated about this – of course, I do not blame those who are not responsible for this. But I do think it's fair to point out that lack of access to a public document coming up for public comment is a great disservice to the people of Maine, and it demonstrates a lack of desire for public input by the responsible party or parties. Government is supposed to be by the people for the people.

As for the bill itself – “sex education” does not belong in the classroom. And using public tax money to create and disseminate such materials is an inappropriate and irresponsible use of public funds. Thomas Jefferson once wrote, *“To compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves and abhors is sinful and tyrannical.”*

Furthermore, the proposed language states that since existing ‘sex education’ programs do not reach or resonate with everyone, focus would specifically target minority groups, those with disabilities, and those in circumstances where they lack “relevant, inclusive sex education.”

May I propose that maybe if this isn't resonating with people, perhaps it's because they don't want it?!

Finally, I just want to briefly address the heart of this issue. I know this opinion isn't popular these days. But I think it's time we face the facts and address the real issue here.

How do you tell a cow from a bull? How do you tell a hen from a rooster? How do you know a filly from a colt? It's pretty obvious – we all know the answer. But a boy from a girl, somehow we think that's different? Somehow the lines are blurred and we're really not sure anymore? This is basic human anatomy, and we are blinding ourselves to reality if we refuse to accept that a boy is a boy and a girl is a girl – period. It's either male or female, that's it. And God is the One Who makes that decision, not us.

We don't need “sex education”. We don't need rewriting of basic biology. And we don't need woke ideology pushed upon youth, further increasing the mental health crisis here in the state of Maine. What children need is to be taught truth, reason, and age-appropriate facts, preferably by their families.

It is for these reasons that I respectfully ask you to oppose LD 254. Thank you for your time.