

Senator Rafferty
Representative Brennan
Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education & Cultural Affairs

Senator Rafferty, Representative Brennan, and distinguished members of the committee, my name is Clara Porter and I'm writing to ask you to support LD 254: An Act to Update the Sex Education & Consent Curriculum.

As someone who has worked in sexual violence prevention for nearly 30 years, I know the critical importance of comprehensive sexual health education. Young people need clear, accurate information about their bodies and how to communicate about their boundaries with others in their lives. They need to understand and be able to identify and respond to predatory behavior, harassment, coercion, and manipulation in order to intervene early on their own behalf or in support of others. This education is fundamental to young people leading safe and healthy lives.

Comprehensive sexuality education allows us to create an environment where young people feel able to ask all of their questions and are given clear, accurate information about their bodies. Equipping educators with the support & resources needed to provide high quality sex education will help us build a world where there is an expectation of respectful communication and behavior around sexual health, sexuality, and relationships.

Please vote "ought to pass" on LD 254. Thank you for your time.

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