

PUBLIC COMMENTS

SB 442

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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Hearing Date: May 12, 2021 8:00 AM

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Jo Foley

Self N/A

Henderson, TX

I support SB 442. I don't really think that there should be sexuality instruction taught in school. It should be taught at home, but, if you are going to allow it, then, abstinence should be the priority. Morality in the country is at an extremely low level and it needs to be restored. Schools should not be teaching illogical and unscientific ideologies. Stick to the health, not the sex.

Solange Hommel

self, writer

KILLEEN, TX

I am opposed to SB 442. This bill is not intended to improve the education of our children, it is meant to enable individuals with little or no medical or scientific understanding of human sexuality to dictate what is taught in public schools. This is clearly evidenced by the Senate Education committee's substitution of "(1) BASED ON THE ADVICE OF THE LOCAL SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL" of "(1) FREE FROM FACTUAL ERRORS". They are clearly more concerned with the opinions of random community members than they are with current scientific understanding. The fact that health professionals are not a required part of the local school health advisory council is both terrifying and appalling. Vote NOT on SB 442 or amend it to prioritize factual information over fear and shame driven propaganda.

Kathy Turner

self, retired

McGregor, TX

I strongly support SH 442. Thank you for holding a hearing on this bill. I urge the Committee to report it favorably out of committee promptly, and exert their energy to getting this through calendars and to the full house for consideration. God bless!

Jennifer Allmon

Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops

Austin, TX

As the primary and principal educators of their children, parents have the right and responsibility to impart their values in all aspects of their children's education, particularly regarding human sexuality, which addresses questions about the fundamental nature and purpose of the human person. The state's role is secondary and serves to assist and support parents in the duty of educating their children.

SB 442 will vastly improve parents' ability to determine what, if any, human sexuality instruction is provided to their children by public schools. Making public the minutes of every meeting of the local school health advisory council and requiring SHACs to hold public meetings that allow for public comment empowers parents to participate in the process of adopting curriculum and ensures that the values of local communities are respected. For those parents who are overburdened with the responsibilities of work and child-rearing and who may not have the time to engage in this process, which describes most parents, this bill requires

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that parents be informed of the exact dates that human sexuality instruction will be provided and a detailed description of the content. It also requires that curriculum materials be posted on the district website and allows parents to request a copy through e-mail. These provisions are a substantial improvement to current statute and enable parents to make an informed decision, and if necessary, opt their children out of human sexuality instruction.

Pope Francis writes in *Amoris Laetitia, The Joy of Love*, “The State offers educational programs in a subsidiary way, supporting the parents in their indeclinable role; parents themselves enjoy the right to choose freely the kind of education...which they wish to give their children in accordance with their convictions. Schools do not replace parents but complement them.” (84) We believe Senator Hughes’s bill acknowledges and respects this and that is why we support and urge you to pass SB 442.

Diana Richards

Self, Volunteer Advocate for Ehlers Danlos Syndrome and other genetic connective tissue disorders

Sherman, TX

Thank you, Chairwoman Klick and Committee Members, for hearing this incredibly important bill today. I am testifying FOR SB442 by Senator Hughes today as a Native Texan & Mother of two school-aged children. I actually helped work during 2020 with other Texans on the revamping of our Health TEKS with the State Board of Education. I testified multiple times to help make sure that the SBOE understood the desires of the rural Texoma area. Parents & Guardians need the transparency that SB442 will provide, because the SHACs have a lot of work to do on curriculum selection to meet these new TEKS standards. Local Control is of utmost importance. Thank you.