

Testimony of Kevin Zollarcoffer
In Support of HB 5489 An Act Concerning Secondary School Reform
March 15, 2010

Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee, I am Kevin Zollarcoffer from New Haven, CT and currently a Junior at Wilbur Cross High School. I am testifying in support of House Bill 5489, *An Act Concerning Secondary School Reform*. I am pleased to see that you are considering such an important bill that would give me and my peers comprehensive health education in high school.

I believe health education is important for all young people to receive because it provides us with life saving information about our health such as physical education, nutrition, healthy relationships and communication and comprehensive sex education. At my high school we do not receive sex education in class but can go to the Body Shop for health information and medical care. We learn about the dangers of drugs and alcohol abuse but this is not enough. Young people deserve to receive complete health education in school to keep them healthy throughout their life.

As a starting center for my high school football team I have learned the importance of physical fitness, teamwork and communication. For the last 3 years I have been a part of STARS (Students Teaching About Responsible Sexuality) as a peer educator for Planned Parenthood of Southern New England. I have been trained to provide basic sexuality education, resources and referrals to my peers. We focus on giving our peers information that will help them make responsible decisions about their sexual health. I do this in my school, in my community and at conferences like True Colors. I provide information about how to prevent pregnancy and prevent sexually transmitted diseases and the promotion of healthy relationships.

I support House Bill 5489, *An Act Concerning Secondary School Reform* because I believe young people have the right to accurate and comprehensive information that can protect their health and save their lives. Young people have the right to comprehensive health education and they need it throughout their life. Thank you.

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