

## S.B. 1 AN ACT CONCERNING TRANSPARENCY IN EDUCATION

Dear Chairman McCrory, Chairman Currey, Ranking Members Berthel and McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee,

My name is Janet Cushman and I am a concerned resident of Enfield, Connecticut, where I have resided for over 25 years.

I oppose S.B. 1, "*An Act Concerning Transparency in Education*", with specific attention to Section 4, which repeals Section 10-16b of the general statutes and adds "comprehensive sex education that is age and developmentally appropriate...."

As written in Section 4 of S.B.1, "comprehensive sex education," is not well defined, yet it would be mandated for every school district in Connecticut. Teaching sex education should continue to be a local decision, taking into account the needs of each community, the safety of children, and the rights of parents. Do not let this bill silence the voices of local school boards and parents in determining what should be taught to their children.

Section 4 of S.B. 1 mentions "comprehensive sex education that is *age and developmentally appropriate*." Who decides what is "age and developmentally appropriate"? A simple glance at the "Resources" section of the Connecticut State Department of Education "Guidelines for the Sexual Health Education Component of Comprehensive Health Education" reveals a number of resources that parents - and society at large - would find abhorrent to include in any sex education curricula. (For example, see the "SexEd Library" under the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS).) Clearly how some define "developmentally appropriate" can be vastly different from others.

I encourage you to protect the rights of parents and the physical and mental health of children in Connecticut by opposing S.B. 1.

I am thankful for the opportunity to express my concerns to you on this significant issue.

With appreciation,  
Janet Cushman