

HCS HB 1075 -- SCHOOL COURSE MATERIALS

SPONSOR: Phillips (Davis)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "do pass" by the Committee on Children and Families by a vote of 8 to 3.

This substitute revises the current requirements for presenting information in public schools relating to contraception and sexually transmitted diseases. Students must be informed that personally and medically relevant information concerning contraception, abortion, and pregnancy may be obtained from their family practitioner rather than presenting students with the latest medically factual information regarding side effects, health benefits, and failure rates for the methods of preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases. Currently, curriculum materials must be made available for inspection prior to their use. The substitute clarifies that the materials should be available one week before use and also requires that schools must make known the instructor's name and any affiliation with an entity involved with human sexuality instruction at least one week in advance.

No entity providing abortion services is permitted to furnish materials or instruction. The substitute also clarifies that its provisions are applicable to charter schools.

FISCAL NOTE: No impact on state funds in FY 2007, FY 2008, and FY 2009.

PROPOSERS: Supporters say the bill will establish new guidelines for school districts that want to teach sex education curriculum, keeping abortion providers out of public and charter schools. This state has a long history of supporting legislation that protects life from its inception to natural death.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Davis; Missouri Eagle Forum; Missouri Right to Life; Campaign Life Missouri; Missouri Family Network; Missouri Baptist Convention, Christian Life Commission; Missouri Catholic Conference; America Asleep Know More; Fellowship and Association of Christian Teachers; and Cheri Pierce.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say it will eliminate discussion of contraceptives in public schools that provide sex education. This kind of legislation does not provide accurate information regarding contraceptives and pregnancy unless it is religiously based. The bill is an abstinence only bill that does not respect our kids.

Testifying against the bill were Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri; Marcy Vansandt; Clarissa Jane Schuller; Steven Plax, M.D.; Franklin McCallie; and Sarah Barasch.

Dominic Lackey, Legislative Analyst