



Youth Wellness Act HB 19-1032: Concerning Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education House Sponsorship: Lontine Senate Sponsorship: Todd and Coram,

This bill modernizes and updates existing law. It enables more young people to access the skills and information they need keep themselves and their peers safe and healthy.

Colorado doesn't have a sex ed requirement, but for schools that decide to offer sex ed, law already requires that sex ed cover a comprehensive range of topics. This bill incorporates conversations about consent and healthy relationships into that range of topics, and clarifies that sex ed must not endorse a particular religious ideology, must not shame or stigmatize students, and must be inclusive of LGBTQ youth.

This is NOT a mandate to include sex education in schools – it simply clarifies content requirements and provides resources for schools that wish to provide sex education. **Parents are notified before their child receives sex ed, and are free to opt them out.** This bill doesn't change that.

Parents overwhelmingly support comprehensive sex ed, regardless of political affiliation. Two 2018 national surveys show parents from both major political parties overwhelmingly support their children learning a comprehensive range of sex education topics in both middle school and high school, including birth control and pregnancy, abstinence, STD prevention, consent, healthy relationships, and sexual orientation. This makes sense, as young people who receive sex ed experience healthier relationships and improved health outcomes.

Colorado receives over \$800,000 annually from the federal government to teach abstinence-only sex education that doesn't work. There is clear, consistent research that abstinence-only sex education does not give young people the information they need to protect their health, and can negatively impact health outcomes. While abstinence is taught in comprehensive sex education, "abstinence-only" sex education is outdated and ineffective.

This bill allocates \$1 million in state funds annually to an existing grant program administered by CDPHE. Schools that wish to provide sex ed can apply for funding, and priority will be given to rural schools and schools that don't have the resources to teach sex ed. **HB19-1032 expands the membership of the grant program oversight entity** to ensure the input and representation of those most impacted by comprehensive sex ed, including youth.

Please vote YES on HB19-1032.