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3 Title: Repeal Continuous Waiver for School Sex Education Opt-Out
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5 Introduced by: Laura Carravallah, MD, for the Genesee County Delegation
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8 Lauren Smith
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10 Referred to: Reference Committee E
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12 House Action: **APPROVED**
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15 Whereas, the American Public Health Association, American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology,
16 American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, and American Academy of Pediatrics support evidence-
17 based, comprehensive sex education that begins in childhood and discusses both the benefits to delaying
18 intercourse and using contraception; this method is shown to help young people build healthier
19 relationships, delay sex, reduce risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), and unplanned pregnancy
20 once they do begin sexual activity^{1,2,3,4,5,6}, and
21

22 Whereas, studies indicate that regardless of the decrease in formal sex education for students,
23 there has been no change in number of adolescents talking to parents about the topic, and those parents
24 that do discuss may have limited or inaccurate knowledge about contraception or other sexual health
25 topics^{7,8,9}, and
26

27 Whereas, in 2015, the pregnancy rate of adolescents in Michigan aged 15 to 19 was 31.6 per 1,000,
28 much higher than the national rate of 22.3 per 1,000^{10,11}, and
29

30 Whereas, Michigan's rates of reportable gonorrhea, chlamydia, and syphilis among children aged
31 15 to 19 in 2013 are between 8 to 31 percent above the national rates¹², and
32

33 Whereas, in 2016, STI rates in Michigan for children aged 10 to 14 and 15 to 19 substantially
34 increased as they entered the next age bracket: Gonorrhea, 1 percent to 21 percent and Chlamydia, 1
35 percent to 30 percent¹³, and
36

37 Whereas, an increasing number of adolescents are using the internet and other media as a source
38 to educate themselves and fill the knowledge gaps on sexual health, but this information is often
39 inaccurate or inappropriate^{5,14}, and
40

41 Whereas, adolescents as young as eight years old are also being exposed to sexual material via
42 media outlets; 51 percent of males and 32 percent females claimed to have viewed pornography before
43 the age of 13^{2,15}, and
44

45 Whereas, hypersexualized culture created by advertisement, music, and television may be
46 stimulating adolescents to engage with risky behavior at a younger age and encourage them to "grow up"
47 faster^{16,17,18,19}, and
48

49 Whereas, Michigan Compiled Law 380.1507a states that a parent or guardian of a student is able to
50 write a "continuing written notice" which allows their child to be excused from sex education courses from
51 then forth until the parent/guardian authorizes enrollment²⁰, and
52

53 Whereas, similar Michigan school "opt-out" programs, such as those for vaccinations, require in-
54 person education and yearly waiver updates²¹; therefore be it

55 RESOLVED: That MSMS supports that parents or guardians who choose to have their children opt
56 out of school sex education be required to submit an opt-out notice each year that their child is to be
57 excused from school sex education; and be it further

58
59 RESOLVED: That MSMS lobby the Michigan Legislature for the repeal of Michigan Compiled Law
60 380.1507a from the Michigan Revised School Code regarding the a "continuing written notice" for opting
61 out of school sex education.
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64 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: NONE

Relevant MSMS Policy:

Statement on Sex Education

The primary responsibility for family life education is in the home. At local option and discretion there should be complementary family life and sex education programs in the schools at all levels. Such programs should 1) be part of an overall health education program; 2) be presented in a manner commensurate with the maturation level of the students; 3) have professionally developed curricula; 4) include ample involvement of parents and other concerned members of the community; and 5) utilize classroom teachers and other professionals who have shown an aptitude for working with young people and who have received special training.

(Prior to 1990)

¹ Santelli J, Ott MA, Lyon M, Rogers J, Summers D, Schleifer R. Abstinence and abstinence-only education: A review of US policies and programs. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2006 Jan 1;38(1):72-81.

² American Public Health Association. Sexuality education as part of a comprehensive health education program in K-12 schools. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved July. 2005 Dec 14;24:2008.

³ . American Public Health Association. Sexuality education as part of a comprehensive health education program in K-12 schools. Washington, DC: Author. Retrieved July. 2005 Dec 14;24:2008.

⁴ ASHA Sign Ons & Statements of Support. American School Health Association. 2016. <http://www.ashaweb.org/asha-sign-ons-statements-of-support/>

⁵ Comprehensive sexuality education. Committee Opinion No. 678. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. *Obstet Gynecol* 2016;128:e227–30. <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Committee-Opinions/Committee-on-Adolescent-Health-Care/Comprehensive-Sexuality-Education>

⁶ Breuner CC. Talking about sex: AAP recommends evidence-based education, with pediatricians' help. *AAP News*. 2016 Jul 18.

⁷ Breuner, C. "Talking about Sex: AAP Recommends Evidence-Based Education, with Pediatricians' Help." *American Academy of Pediatrics*, 18 July 2016, www.aappublications.org/news/2016/07/18/SexEd071816.

⁸ Eisenberg ME, Bearinger LH, Sieving RE, Swain C, Resnick MD. Parents' beliefs about condoms and oral contraceptives: Are they medically accurate? *Perspectives on sexual and reproductive health*. 2004 Mar 1;36(2):50-7.

⁹ Lindberg LD, Maddow-Zimet I, Boonstra H. Changes in adolescents' receipt of sex education, 2006–2013. *Journal of Adolescent Health*. 2016 Jun 1;58(6):621-7.

¹⁰ Akers AY, Schwarz EB, Borrero S, Corbie-Smith G. Family discussions about contraception and family planning: a qualitative exploration of black parent and adolescent perspectives. *Perspectives on sexual and reproductive health*. 2010 Sep 1;42(3):160-7.

¹¹ https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/Teen_Pregnancy_in_Michigan_Updated_564796_7.pdf

¹² "Reproductive Health: Teen Pregnancy." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 9 May 2017, www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm.

¹³ http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdhhs/2015_Michigan_STD_Statistics_542411_7.pdf

¹⁴ Buhi ER, Daley EM, Oberne A, Smith SA, Schneider T, Fuhrmann HJ. Quality and accuracy of sexual health information web sites visited by young people. *Journal of adolescent health*. 2010 Aug 1;47(2):206-8.

¹⁵ <https://www.acped.org/the-college-speaks/position-statements/the-impact-of-pornography-on-children>

¹⁶ http://www.nbcnews.com/id/15905527/ns/health-childrens_health/t/new-kids-grow-faster/#.Wm3XaZM-fOQ

¹⁷ Gruber E, Grube JW. Adolescent sexuality and the media: A review of current knowledge and implications. *Western Journal of Medicine*. 2000 Mar;172(3):210.

¹⁸ <https://educateempowerkids.org/hyper-sexualized-childhood/>

¹⁹ Olfman, S, ed. *The sexualization of childhood*. ABC-CLIO, 2009.

²⁰ <http://www.bmcso.org/sites/default/files/revised-school-code-references-sex-education3m1.pdf>

²¹ MDHHS - Immunization Waiver Information, www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_4911_4914_68361-344843--,00.html