

An Act Relative to Healthy Youth

S. 2062

Sponsored by Representatives Jim O'Day and Paul Brodeur and Senator Sal DiDomenico

When Schools Offer Sexuality Education, Let's Get It Right

Giving Young People the Facts They Need to Make Healthy,
Responsible Decisions about Sexual Activity and Relationships

Many Massachusetts public schools provide their students with excellent health education that covers sexual activity and healthy relationships, but others offer little to no information on these subjects. These are local decisions based on local resources and priorities. When public schools do provide sexuality education, however, it should be done responsibly: it should be comprehensive, medically accurate, and age-appropriate. This bill would make sure that's the kind of education students would receive.

“An Act Relative to Healthy Youth” will:

- Ensure that school districts that choose to offer sexuality education provide young people age-appropriate, medically accurate information.
- Ensure that school districts that choose to provide sexuality education include information about both abstinence and contraception.
- Leave to local school boards and schools all decisions about whether to offer sexuality education.
- Leave to parents the choice about whether their children participate in school-based sexuality education.

“An Act Relative to Healthy Youth” will NOT:

- It will NOT require schools to provide sexuality education.
- It will NOT interfere with local control.
- It will NOT remove the benefits of abstinence from sexuality education.
- It will NOT dictate the age or grade level when sexuality education should begin.
- It will NOT interfere with parents' right to opt their children out of participating in sexuality education programs.
- It will NOT cost any money.

The Massachusetts Senate passed the Healthy Youth Bill in November 2015 in a bipartisan vote.

If you have any questions about this legislation, please contact Michael Falcone at 617-629-8613 or mfalcone@pplm.org.