

HOUSE No. xxxxxx

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Gloria L. Fox

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

Comprehensive Sexual Education and Violence Prevention Programs.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
<i>Gloria L. Fox</i>	<i>7th Suffolk</i>
<i>Sonia Chang-Diaz</i>	<i>Second Suffolk</i>
<i>Byron Rushing</i>	<i>9th Suffolk</i>
<i>Carlos Henriquez</i>	<i>5th Suffolk</i>
<i>Linda Dorcena Forry</i>	<i>12th Suffolk</i>
<i>Russell Holmes</i>	<i>6th Suffolk</i>
<i>Ellen Story</i>	<i>3rd Hampshire</i>
<i>Benjamin Swan</i>	<i>11th Hampden</i>

[Pin Slip]

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand Eleven

Comprehensive Sexual Education and Violence Prevention Programs.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 This legislation recognizes the responsibility the Commonwealth has to develop an integrated
2 pregnancy and STI prevention system that ensures our youth have access to culturally and age-
3 appropriate, and medically accurate sexual health information, as well as access to other
4 resources that help them make healthy and safe decisions for their physical and mental well-
5 being. To that end, this legislation would require condom use and STI prevention be taught
6 within health curriculums; an extremely important subject given that teen pregnancy birth rates
7 in Boston have not decreased significantly since 2003, and Chlamydia and Gonorrhea rates
8 amongst high school girls have been increasing since 1999. Additionally, according to the 2007
9 Health and Risk Behaviors of Massachusetts Youth report, only 50 percent of high school
10 students reported being taught at school how to use a condom, and there is documented evidence
11 that condom use decreases as students' age from 9th grade to 12th grade. Sexual health is

12 integral to the overall well-being and educational development of young people and without
13 proper education and advocacy can have long-lasting effects on their life trajectory.

14

15 This legislation would also require health curriculums to focus on violence prevention and the
16 effects violence has on the educational and personal development, as well as the mental health,
17 of students. According to the 2007 report, an alarming 24 percent of high school students
18 stopped their usual activities for 2 or more weeks because of feeling sad or hopeless.

19

20 Section 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2010 Official Edition, is
21 hereby amended by inserting in the second paragraph, after the word "languages", the following
22 words:- health education.

23

24 Paragraph 3 of said section 1D of said chapter 69, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by
25 striking out the fourth and fifth sentences and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:-

26 The standards for health education shall be age-appropriate, medically accurate and evidence-
27 based and shall, at a minimum, provide for instruction in the following areas: growth and
28 physical development, physical activity and fitness, nutrition and wellness , human
29 immunodeficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syndrome education, reproduction and
30 sexual health, mental health, family life, interpersonal relationships, disease prevention and
31 control, safety and injury prevention, violence prevention, including teen dating violence.

32

33

34 Full rounded education on reproduction and sexuality, interpersonal relationships, violence
35 prevention, bullying prevention and teen dating violence. Instruction in health education shall be
36 age-appropriate, medically accurate and evidence-based, but not be limited. A focus on safe and
37 healthy relationships with a focus on preventing sexual and domestic violence, reproduction and
38 sexual health, tobacco, alcohol and other substance use and abuse prevention, violence
39 prevention, including teen dating violence, bullying prevention, conflict resolution, health
40 disparities and training in the administration of first aid, including cardiopulmonary
41 resuscitation.

42

43 Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the commissioner of the department
44 of education shall submit a report on the provision of health education by school districts to the
45 joint committees on education and public health, the clerk of the house and the clerk of the
46 senate no later than January 1, 2012. The report shall include the following information for each
47 public school district in the Commonwealth: (1) Sexual Health education requirements by grade
48 level; (2) Health education curriculum offered by grade level; (3) The training and professional
49 development to teachers for each of the categories in the curriculum frameworks listed in section
50 1D of Chapter 69 of the General Laws by grade level; (4) The number of students who receive
51 health education by grade level; (5) The number of students who opt-out of any portion of the
52 health education curriculum involving human sexuality education; and (6) The approximate
53 number of hours spent on each of the categories in the curriculum frameworks listed in section
54 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws by grade level.

55

56

57