

Comment Report

HF 2031

A bill for an act incorporating provisions related to pregnancy and fetal development into the human growth and development and health curriculum provided by school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools to students enrolled in grades one through twelve.(See HF 2617.)

Subcommittee Members: Osmundson-CH, Buck, Johnson

Date: 01/30/2024

Time: 08:00 AM

Location: House Lounge 2

Name: Sandy Wilson

Comment: Citizen Engagement declares IN FAVOR of HF 2031. Please move the bill.

Name: Tammy Gertsen

Comment: If you are so prolife, then end this AEA Bill taking away their ability to serve our children. You say you are giving the schools the ability to provide these services on their own but you do not have the provision in how they are to pay for these. If you are so prolife then stop this nonsense as the AEA's save lives. If you force them to use OUTSIDE of IOWA companies you are not for the lively hood of our Iowan kids.

Name: Lois DeWaard

Comment: I oppose HF 2031. Introducing junk science into human growth and development and health curriculum only supports the narrow minded right wing agenda in this state. The majority of Iowans do not want this bill.

Name: Linda Larson

Comment: I oppose HF 2031. This bill would bring biased and inaccurate information into our schools. It would be inconsistent with the values and opinions of many parents. Our students would not gain from what amounts to indoctrination.

Name: Barbara and Jim Dale

Comment: Our laws should uphold doctor/patient confidentiality as well as individuals' privacy concerning their own bodies.

Name: Kimberly Noles

Comment: It's a decision that should be made by a woman and her doctor, not by the government. It's a personal decision and the government needs to stay out of it. I can't believe we're having to fight this battle all over again

Name: Alison Cocks

Comment: I oppose this bill. Introducing inaccurate information and biased information has no place in human and health curriculum. The curriculum should be based on science, not certain legislatures opinions.

Name: Andrea Greiner

Comment: I am writing to outline my grave concerns about this bill and the inaccuracies it proposes to perpetuate. I am a board certified obstetrician/gynecologist and an expert in embryology, fetal development and pregnancy. I watched the Baby Olivia video required in this bill, <https://youtu.be/SlQOooYAs8?si=2bF5j3eOh4NiyRn2>. There

are at least 10 factually inaccurate statements in this video and I have outlined them below.

1. Life does not begin at conception.
2. The weeks of pregnancy in this video are misleading and not calculated the medically correct way we do in OBGYN. We calculate the weeks of pregnancy based on the time elapsed since the 1st day of a woman's last menstrual period, not after fertilization. So you need to add 2 weeks to all the weeks mentioned in this video.
3. A "heartbeat" cannot be detected at 3 weeks, which is actually 5 weeks after the last menstrual period (LMP). An ultrasound cannot detect fetal cardiac activity on ultrasound until 67 weeks after the LMP.
4. Brain activity cannot be measured at any point in pregnancy as described in this video.
5. A fetus cannot bring its hands together in the first trimester as mentioned in the video. This milestones doesn't occur until after birth.
6. A fetus cannot hiccup in the first trimester as mentioned in the video. This happens in the late 2nd/early 3rd trimester.
7. A first trimester fetus cannot suck its thumb or swallow.
8. Fetuses don't make speaking movements.
9. No fetus born at 20 weeks after fertilization as survived. There are a very small number of babies who have survived after being born at 22 weeks of gestation, after the LMP.
10. A human pregnancy is 10 months or 40 weeks, not 9 months as mentioned in this video.

The Iowa Legislature needs to stop its overreach and stop telling educators how to do their jobs. I live in in the Iowa City School District and they use an objective, scientifically and medically accurate human development curriculum. This bill is substandard and should not be codified into Iowa law.

Name: Beth Winterhof

Comment: Quit shoveling your conservative POV on students, and give sciences back to scientists. Protect the right of women to control their own health issues. If the goal was to portray pregnancy and fetal development factually, it would be less of a concern, but knowing the stated agenda of this administration, it will be construed with less fact, and a more emotional and guilt driven agenda. Keep out of bedroom legislation. Focus on caring for the living by supporting higher wages. good caring facilities for single parents' children; and on the other end of life, better support for hospitals and nursing home care.

Name: Becky Parrish

Comment: This appears to be extremely prolife and biased by including a high definition ultrasound of every stage of fetal development and the other requirements. Are you going to incorporate normal reproductive health to include how to prevent pregnancy other than abstinence, such as contraceptive methods and the prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections? I doubt it. Some kids are raised on farms and only think pregnancy occurs when their animals are in heat. We need to educate our children with factual information and to encourage them to see their health care providers (and parents) for guidance. Sex education has been proven NOT to encourage sexual activity. As a Womens Healthcare Nurse Practitioner it always amazes me the misinformation that go around among teens. They need accurate information but not extensive ultrasound information crammed down their throats in an effort to help your hidden agenda of preventing abortions.

Name: Mike Coverdale

Comment: This bill and you are in violation of a human right to their own reproductive choices. It is anti women. How about doing something instead to help all of us?

Name: Patsy Martinson

Comment: I'm part of the Reproductive Freedom Majority in Iowa. Lying to children is WRONG. We all need privacy and true scientific information, along with real life considerations that includes health, spiritual relationship and, I'll say it again, privacy.

Name: Theresa Johnson

Comment: I oppose this bill. Students need real facts in a human development course, not prolife propaganda.

Name: Floyd Gardner

Comment: I find it hard to believe that a handful of people can gather in Des Moines annually and better decide that a women is less capable of deciding whether the women ought to be pregnant than the women and the medical community. You will collectively do as your party wants, but taking Iowa back to the 1950s is not the answer.

Name: Liza Alton

Comment: I oppose this bill and you should too. Students need correct and science based information concerning reproduction and pregnancy and pregnancy prevention.

Name: Rachel Henning

Comment: I oppose this bill and the factual inaccuracies it would force down our students' throats.

Name: Angie Wenell

Comment: I am in favor of this bill. The current sex ed curriculum used in most public schools is extremely explicit. I am certain most parents, let alone most Iowans, have no idea what is happening inside our classrooms with regard to this topic. We have moved way past explaining how the fertilization process works, but now discuss casual sex and all other forms of sexual acts. It is no longer a discussion about biology, but pleasure. These discussions encourage teenagers to engage in these behaviors in ways that will be psychologically and emotionally harmful. I say this because I am confident those that oppose this legislation are adamantly for sex ed curriculum of this nature. How irresponsible are we as a society to teach our adolescence about the act of sex without informing them of the natural outcome of these life altering decisions? What possible reasons would we have to not show them the biological growth process of a life they have the capacity to create? Why would we want to hide this information from them, and why is this not a logical part of a human growth and development curriculum? All the answers to that question are bad. It's telling that most of the comments on here are assuming this will infringe on a woman's right to choose an abortion. Why? What are you afraid it will show? This legislation is logical and necessary especially considering the way our schools are currently approaching this issue.

Name: David Alexander

Comment: HF 2031 is a great idea. What we are doing now is NOT WORKING. Would also like to see discussion about the correlation of STD's, poverty in "out of wedlock pregnancy's", and mental health / depression issues related to those who use each other for sexual pleasure only. I love the politicized comments below who are against HF 2031. They have no contributing ideas. They just criticize thrown down propaganda and keep doing what is obviously "NOT WORKING". PLEASE PASS THIS BILL.