Support the REACH Act

**Sen. Villivalam & Rep. Willis**

*Senate Bill 647 / House Bill 1736*

30 states require instruction about personal health and safety. But not Illinois. Students in Illinois public schools deserve better.

The **Responsible Education for Adolescent and Children's Health Act (REACH Act)** will require age-appropriate, comprehensive, and inclusive personal health and safety education to be taught in public schools, grades K-12.

- REACH Act instruction must be tailored to grade ranges to ensure that it is age and developmentally appropriate.

- The REACH Act sets a multi-year approach for implementation, thereby providing public schools with adequate time to implement quality programs.

- The REACH Act respects local control by allowing school districts to select their own curriculum and materials (consistent with the law) and decide the grades and amount of time instruction.

- Parents retain the right to remove their child from REACH Act instruction.

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• **REACH Act instruction shall:**
  - address experiences and needs of all students, including those with disabilities;
  - not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, ethnicity, nation origin, disability, religion, gender expression, gender identity, or sexual orientation; and
  - allow instructors to answer questions initiated by a student that are related to and consistent with the material of the course.

• **REACH Act instruction shall not:**
  - stigmatize parenting or sexually active youth;
  - employ gender stereotypes;
  - exclude the health needs of intersex individuals or individuals of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities, or gender expressions; or
  - teach or promote any religious doctrine.

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The REACH Act is Supported by:

- Advocates of Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri
- American Association of University Women (AAUW) Illinois
- ALPHAS (African-American Lesbian Professionals Having A Say) (Quad Cities)
- American Nurses Association Illinois
- Bolingbrook Pride
- Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
- Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center
- Chicago Teachers Union
- Citizen Action/Illinois
- Comprehensive Sex Ed Now
- Elmhurst Pride Collective
- Equality Illinois
- EverThrive Illinois
- HITTHOMEOY
- Hope Clinic for Women
- Illinois Association of School Nurses
- Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
- Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Illinois NOW
- Illinois Public Health Association
- Illinois School Counselor Association
- Lambda Legal
- The Liam Foundation (Rockford)
- Mujeres Latinas en Acción
- Naper Pride (Naperville)
- National Association of Social Workers – Illinois Chapter
- The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence
- Northwestern University’s Center for Health Equity Transformation
- Peer Health Exchange
- Peoria Proud
- PFLAG Council of Northern Illinois
- Phoenix Center (Springfield)
- Pinta Pride Project
- Planned Parenthood of Illinois
- Prairie Pride Coalition (Bloomington-Normal)
- Rainbow Cafe LGBTQ Youth Center (Carbondale)
- Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
- Resilience (formerly Rape Victim Advocates)
- Shawnee Health
- She Votes Illinois
- Uniting Pride Center of Champaign County
- The Women’s Center
- YWCA Evanston/North Shore
- Youth Outlook

For more information, contact Mike Ziri, Equality Illinois, at mziri@eqil.org or Brigid Leahy, Planned Parenthood of Illinois, at brigidl@ppil.org.