



Testimony in Opposition of Senate Bill 371

submitted by

Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB)
Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA)

Chairman Jagler and Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

The Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) and the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) believe all students deserve comprehensive, inclusive sexuality education that provides accurate information and practical skills to support healthy decision-making. Our concerns with SB 371 are twofold: first, it does not reinstate the evidence-based standards for comprehensive education that were removed in 2012 when the current “Human Growth and Development Instruction” statute replaced the Healthy Youth Act; second, because the bill does not include funding for implementation, it creates an unfunded mandate for school districts. These added requirements—without resources for curriculum development, teacher training, and family engagement—place significant strain on local budgets, particularly in smaller or rural districts, and may unintentionally lead some districts to discontinue human growth and development instruction altogether.

WPHA and WALHDAB respectfully encourages lawmakers to work collaboratively with educators, parents, and public health experts to develop policies that support evidence-based curricula and provide the funding necessary for successful implementation. This approach will better serve Wisconsin’s youth and strengthen the state’s public health outcomes.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Respectfully submitted,

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