

H.3447 Amendment to Comprehensive Health Education

Overview of the bill:

H. 3447 allows young people to make responsible decisions regarding their own health by ensuring they are taught medically accurate, evidence-based information and ensuring local school districts are in compliance with the Comprehensive Health Education Act.

Know the Facts:

- The bill would enable South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) to monitor compliance with the Act and work with school districts to mediate issues and work towards meeting the requirements provided within the Act.
- Based on 2014 data collected from South Carolina Department of Education, 70% of school districts are not meeting the minimum requirements of the Comprehensive Health Education Act of 1988.
- The bill would require that all instructional materials taught in the classroom are medically accurate.
- Young people deserve medically accurate information about abstinence, contraception and disease prevention.
- South Carolina is among the top ten states in the US for the highest rates of Gonorrhea, Chlamydia and AIDS according to the CDC's 2014 Sexually Transmitted Disease Surveillance.
- Young people who have the facts are better equipped to make responsible decisions about their sexual behavior.

Maintained within the Act:

- Comprehensive sex education addresses both abstinence and contraception.
- Local school districts will continue to make curriculum selections that meet the needs of their local communities.
- Parents and guardians maintain the right to opt their children out of health instruction.

What You Can Do

- Visit www.tellthemsc.org and sign up for updates on this and other legislation that threatens your access to education and healthcare
- Send an email to your legislators telling them that you support this (or any) bill that would provide medically accurate and evidence based instruction to South Carolina's youth.
- Get others involved. Share this Information with your friends and get your community to make their voices heard.