



Montana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance

HB-456

~~DATE 3/10/11~~
~~HB 45-6~~

March 9th, 2011

Montana Senate Judiciary Committee
PO Box 200500
Helena, MT 59620-0500

Dear Senate Judiciary Committee,

The Montana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (MTAHPERD) is a professional organization of educators dedicated to promoting healthy lifestyles among all Montanans through the promotion of health education, physical education, lifetime fitness and recreational activities, and dance

The mission of MTAHPERD is to provide advocacy to its members; provide a venue for presentation of research; provide information on grant opportunities; and provide professional development through conventions and workshops to its members.

MTAHPERD supports the position statement of the American Association for Health Education that "education performs an important role in promoting health and preventing illness, injury, and premature death among children and adolescents."

The ultimate goal of Health education is to enable our youth to live and promote healthy lives. Comprehensive sexuality education is an essential part of a complete, coordinated health education program. Students who are health literate will have the knowledge to live as healthy productive adults.

As specialists in our field, we believe limiting educational recourses for classrooms will ultimately be detrimental to the well-being of students. The restrictions in place by the bill regulating reproductive health education would prevent teens from gaining essential knowledge for healthy living. Health education programs need to provide students with the knowledge to reduce health risks and have a better quality of life.

The Montana Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance is in opposition of House Bill No. 456 for the above mentioned reasons.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

MTAHPERD
Executive Director, Nancy Stock

Signed Copies were originally sent to Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee