

EXHIBIT NO. 2DATE: 3.6.13BILL NO. HB 239

"Opt-Out" System for Sex Education is unacceptable

Two days ago, my 11 year old son came home from school horrified at what he had watched and discussed in class. He informed me that in the Laurel, MT school district, 5th graders watched a sex education video. I had signed an "Opt-out" paper that should have excused him from having to watch this, as my husband and I prefer to teach him about these sensitive issues ourselves. He should not have been in the classroom for this discussion. Having not had the opportunity to preview this video, and having no knowledge of the discussion pertaining to this video, I was extremely disturbed. Upon calling the school, I found they had not gotten the "Opt-out" paper I had signed. When I talked to the school nurse and asked why a reminder had not been sent home the night before, or why a permission slip had not been sent out to begin with for this delicate subject, I was told it would be a nightmare to try and get signatures for every kid. It is obvious there is already a system in place for permission slips to be sent home, so I hardly see how this would be a nightmare. Why is it that when kids need to ride a bus for a school function they are required to sign a permission slip, yet something as important as this we have an "Opt-out" system in place? I was told that this is the first time in 20 years a child has viewed it without the parents permission. While I have a hard time believing that, I'm very thankful my son and I have an open relationship regarding this matter and he feels very comfortable talking to me about it and asking me questions. If he had not said anything, I would have joined the rest of the parents who I believe simply had no idea the video had been viewed, for I cannot believe I am the ONLY parent this has happened to, simply one of the few that has a good relationship with their son and cares enough to call and speak to the school about it.

My son was extremely upset over what was viewed and what was discussed. I strongly believe this is the parent's job to teach our kids about sex and their bodies in these young years, NOT the schools. A permission slip should be required before showing something like this in the classroom, or surely something mentioned in the planner that he brings home every night for me to sign telling what he's done for the day and if anything important is coming up the next day. I am fully aware that not everything my son brings home makes it back to school. He is a 5th grader. All the more reason why an "opt-out" system is ignorant and blatantly manipulative in my opinion. If he had needed a signed permission slip to board a bus, he would not have been allowed on that field trip if the signed note didn't make it back. The same weight should be given to this video and discussion.

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