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**SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 1178**

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**State of Washington**

**58th Legislature**

**2003 Regular Session**

**By** House Committee on Health Care (originally sponsored by Representatives Schual-Berke, Skinner, Cody, Hankins, Moeller, Chase, Darneille, Upthegrove, Hunt, McCoy, Grant, Cooper, Clibborn, Ruderman, Kenney, Wallace, Lantz, Hudgins, Pettigrew, Morrell, McDermott, Jarrett, Romero, Haigh, Hunter, Kagi, Conway and Simpson)

READ FIRST TIME 02/18/03.

1 AN ACT Relating to medically accurate information in sex education  
2 courses; adding a new section to chapter 70.54 RCW; and creating a new  
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that:

6 (1) It is essential for the health and safety of the young people  
7 of Washington state that they receive medically and factually accurate  
8 and objective information about sexuality, pregnancy, and sexually  
9 transmitted diseases;

10 (2) Effective sexuality education discussing condoms and  
11 contraception helps delay the onset of sexual activity, reduce the  
12 frequency of sex, and reduce the number of sexual partners; and

13 (3) Medically accurate information in sex education has contributed  
14 to a recent decline in Washington state's teen pregnancy rate and can  
15 reduce human suffering and health care costs by minimizing sexually  
16 transmitted diseases.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 70.54 RCW  
18 to read as follows:

1 (1) As used in this section, "medically accurate" means verified or  
2 supported by research conducted in compliance with scientific methods  
3 and published in peer-review journals, where appropriate, and  
4 recognized as accurate and objective by professional organizations and  
5 agencies with expertise in the relevant field, including the American  
6 college of obstetricians and gynecologists, the department of health,  
7 or the centers for disease control and prevention.

8 (2) In educational programs paid for in whole or in part with  
9 public funds for use in public schools or elsewhere, information given  
10 about sexual anatomy, sexual physiology, and reproductive health shall  
11 be medically accurate. Medically accurate sex education shall present  
12 information that abstinence from sexual intercourse is the most  
13 effective means to prevent unwanted teenage pregnancy, sexually  
14 transmitted diseases, and human immune deficiency virus when  
15 transmitted sexually. Sex education including abstinence only  
16 curriculum that provides students with information regarding failure  
17 and success rates of condoms and other contraceptives in preventing  
18 pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases shall  
19 provide medically accurate information on such rates.

20 (3) School districts retain the discretion of selecting what  
21 curriculum to use so long as it is medically accurate.

22 (4) All material and instruction in classes that teach sex  
23 education and discuss sexual intercourse shall be age appropriate.

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