



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1054

PAUL HEROUX
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
2ND BRISTOL DISTRICT

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RE: H. 448, S. 265 An Act Relative to Healthy Youth
DT: 9 June 2015

Dear Honorable Senate Chair Sonia Chang-Diaz, House Chair Alice Hanlon Peisch, and members of the Joint Committee on Public Health

Thank you for considering bill *H. 448, S. 265 An Act Relative to Healthy Youth*.

It is all-important that the students and children of the Commonwealth are aware that solitary abstinence teaching is not the option in Sexual Education. With *H. 448, S. 265 An Act Relative to Healthy Youth*, the school districts of the Commonwealth now have the choice of providing consistent Sexual Education to their students. As an advocate of *H. 448, S. 265 An Act Relative to Healthy Youth*, it is imperative we as a Commonwealth do not ignore the harsh reality of unhealthy and violent relationships, be it sexual or not, between not only ourselves as adults, but the youth of the Commonwealth as well. Beyond these realities is the growing concern that the current educational programs that coincide with these truths is not sustainable enough to instill our youth with the knowledge that is necessary to make them generally aware of these realisms. The bills focus on providing medically accurate education that is age appropriate to students, all while making the children's parents or legal guardians aware of the education, which notifications will be provided in English and native language of the parents and legal guardians shows how vital this bill is to every member in the Commonwealth.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter. Being in favor of *H. 448, S. 265 An Act Relative to Healthy Youth* deems necessary and will be the first step in a preemptive movement to instill the youth of the Commonwealth with a healthier understanding of sexual education, all while providing their guardians with the necessary means to withdraw their children from the curriculum if felt necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Heroux".

Paul Heroux