

One Hundred Third Legislature - First Session - 2013

Introducer's Statement of Intent

LB619

Chairperson: Senator Kate Sullivan

Committee: Education

Date of Hearing: March 12, 2013

The following constitutes the reasons for this bill and the purposes which are sought to be accomplished thereby:

LB 619 requires each school district in Nebraska to offer sexual health education. Currently, the Nebraska State Board of Education does not require our schools to teach our youth about HIV, sexually transmitted infections, or pregnancy prevention. Sexual health instruction is left to individual school districts. School districts that choose to teach sexual health are not required to meet any standards, nor are there any limitations on what can be taught.

LB 619 creates the guidelines for schools to follow in providing sexual health education. Schools may select from a list of curricula available through the Department of Education that meet these standards. Parents have the right to review curricula. And, students may be excused from the instruction upon a parent/guardian's request.

Under LB 619, youth would be given instruction on: how to avoid peer and social pressure to engage in sexual activity; recognizing and managing inappropriate and unwanted sexual advances; and that it is wrong to take advantage of or exploit another person. Additionally, students must be encouraged to talk with their parents, guardians or other trusted adults about sexuality issues.

Principal Introducer: _____

Senator Ken Haar