

Good morning Chairman Mortimer and members of the committee. For the record my name is Kari Overall, and I am the President of the Idaho Education Association. I am speaking in opposition to HB120 on behalf of educators across the state.

The IEA believes in age-appropriate sex education. The IEA believes all sex education should include parent orientation and be planned and implemented with careful attention to developmental needs, appropriateness to community settings and values, and respect for individual differences.

The IEA echoes many of the concerns expressed by ISBA including the lack of definition in code for sexuality. A very broad definition of the word "sexuality" would require prior notification for teaching works of literature, some aspects of science including biology, agricultural related courses like animal husbandry, and social sciences including most history and humanities courses. Without a clear definition, we believe this legislation could hinder educator's ability to teach current Idaho content standards in a variety of subject areas.

We understand that there is a particular interest in being very careful about classes in what we traditionally call "sex education" for young people. We recognize parents currently have the option to "opt out" of traditional sex education classes. Many children in Idaho benefit from the sensitive and careful way our schools and communities introduce students to this important and sensitive topic in life. Parents already have the right to opt their children out of these classes as it stands, and we believe this is sufficient.

We urge you to oppose HB120. Thank you and I will stand for questions.