

My name is Elaine King. I am a retired educator and all our five children graduated from the S/S School District and those of our 18 grandchildren who are old enough all attend schools in the Idaho Public School System.

The reason I strongly support the Opt- In Sex Education Bill is because I believe this is the best way to get parents involved in the teaching of sex education to their children. And parental involvement is vital and will be needed long after the school instruction is completed.

If parents have the opportunity of opting in their children for sex education not only will the parents know when the sex education classes will be taking place, and more about the materials being used, but more importantly they can encourage their opt in children to have an open discussion with them by sharing what they have learned. And it will be an opportunity for their parents to answer questions their children most likely won't ask in class. This important dialog can only take place when parents have been openly informed about this class instruction because it will be necessary for them to read the information in order to give permission for their child to participate.

Using the Opt In form is sort of a reverse psychology and could make the student responsible for getting their parents signature, and that alone could be the beginning of an open discussion on the topic.

The last time any of my four sons brought home a notice about something from school was either when it was pinned to their shirt by their Kindergarten teacher, or it was something they really wanted to participate in like a field trip. BUT peer pressure also contributed to bringing home anything to be signed that would allow them to be included in any event or activity because their friends were doing the same.

Peer pressure may make the students more willing to encourage their parents to sign the opt in form, and that will help the parents become part of this important learning experience. OPT IN I believe is the only

way this can be done openly and effectively. Afterall, it is a parental right to be involved in the education of our children. I would encourage your yes vote on this important bill.

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