

*Written Testimony to oppose HB 22-1136
March 16th, 2022*

My name is Aaron Lazowitz and I am a practicing OB/GYN physician in Denver, CO. I am providing this written testimony as an individual physician and scientist in opposition to House Bill 1136. House Bill 1136 is a blatant attempt to force anti-choice rhetoric and non-scientific beliefs into Colorado's sexual education requirements. We know from actual research studies that sex education is most effective when based in actual science. This includes providing accurate information on the risks of sexual intercourse and comprehensive education on the means to prevent those risks, including all forms of contraception that can be used to prevent unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.

House Bill 1136 would instead coerce our state's sex education guidelines to push an anti-science agenda. This bill uses classic anti-choice rhetoric such as "baby in a womb" instead of using the scientifically accurate embryological terms pertaining to human development. Further, this bill requires "high-definition ultrasound" demonstration of scientifically inaccurate milestones in human development. More importantly, there is no evidence-based benefit to students from a proposed "five-minute" video of medically inaccurate statements regarding human development. Students are best taught human development and embryology through their biological sciences, which can take the time to provide students with scientifically-based information in the context of their broader education.

I grew up in Texas and personally witnessed the failings of a non-scientifically based abstinence-only sex education system. That is something I adamantly want to avoid for the students of Colorado, whom I now have the pleasure of helping to care for. House Bill 1136 would significantly degrade the quality of Colorado's sex education program and it is clear that no actual medical or scientific expertise was utilized in the creation of this bill. Therefore, I urge you to vote no on this bill and support the science-based education of the students of Colorado.

House Health & Insurance
 03/16/2022 01:30 PM
 HB22-1136 Ultrasound Video Demonstration In Sex Ed
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Virginia Gebhart Against Self	<p>Please vote no on this bill. I don't think it's appropriate for politicians, far removed from the classroom, to mandate specific curriculum materials for any classroom. Educators should be free to choose the most appropriate materials for their students' education. They are the subject experts. They are the experts in age appropriate strategies and materials to be used in the classroom.</p> <p>It may be that showing an ultrasound video of a pregnancy in a classroom in med school is appropriate. It may not be appropriate for young people in high school. I reacted very negatively to the first ultrasound images of my own pregnancy at age 34. I was thrilled to be pregnant, but I thought the grainy, muddled image looked deformed. I had nightmares. The doctor assured me the pregnancy was normal, but I had a negative, emotional reaction to this ultrasound image.</p> <p>The life experiences and maturity level of high school students are certainly varied. If there is research that shows showing an ultrasound in the classroom is beneficial for students, educators should be free to choose to show it or not show it, taking into account the individual students in their classroom. It should not be mandated.</p> <p>Please vote no on this bill. I trust educators over politicians in choosing specific age appropriate curriculum materials.</p>
Kassandra Garrison For Self	<p>I write in support of HB22-1136</p> <p>A picture is worth a thousand words.</p> <p>As a medical professional in the OBGYN field, I am always astonished by the lack of a woman's understanding regarding her own anatomy and function. Additionally, most women are also very surprised to learn how quickly the person in her womb achieves his/her own developmental milestones.</p> <p>Thanks to advances in ultrasound technology, women now have a front row seat to observe, learn and marvel at the most amazing design of the human body. Humans are by nature very visual creatures, therefore utilizing ultrasound as a standard to educate on the anatomy of the reproductive system in sex education for our youth is essential to ones understanding of such processes.</p> <p>A brief ultrasound video can include but is not limited to; the anatomy of the uterus and ovaries prior to and during pregnancy; the ability to</p>

	<p>see how the mother’s body responds and changes as a result of pregnancy; key fetal developmental milestones can be discerned such as, a heart beat seen at 6 weeks gestation, development of limb buds at 8 weeks, and the realization of a fully developed human after 11 weeks. Regardless of topic, the more informed and knowledgeable one is regarding a process, the better the outcome of any pending decision. Knowledge is key. Creating Standardized video content would provide unparalleled education that would equip our youth to make well educated decisions regarding their reproductive health.</p>
<p>Diane Borden For Self</p>	<p>This bill would be very beneficial to students. If a young person knows the stages of development of a baby in the womb they will have vital tools to make an informed choices on sexuality and pregnancy.</p>
<p>Emily Downs For Self</p>	<p>My name is Emily Downs, a Certified Nurse Aid and a college student. As a student, healthcare provider, and a daughter with multiple family members and friends in education, we know it is important to educate, because education lead to knowledge, which produces empowerment. Through an ultrasound, first and foremost, we can see that it is a human being made in the image of God, but secondly, we also know through science that human life starts at conception. All I want to do is support men, women, babies, and everyone else involved, including providers and family. In order to do that, women need to know what is growing inside of them- a baby, not unviable, pregnancy tissue. Abortion providers that spoke at the last bill- REAH- said that they desire their patients to be educated and to be able to make their own decision. If they are not provided with his information, then they truly cannot make a decision for themselves. It is already made for them, and many many live to regret it- missing that baby beside them and watching him or her grow. They miss their first words, hobbies, starting school, going to college, getting married, working in their career, having grandchildren, and many other moments. They are as much human as you and me.</p>



AMERICAN ATHEISTS

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Rep. Susan Lontine
Chair, House Health Insurance Committee
Colorado State Capitol - Room HCR 0112
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203-1784

**Re: OPPOSE HB22 1136, Letter of Opposition from American Atheists in
opposition to a bill that undermines sex education in public schools**

Dear Chairperson Lontine and Members of the House Health Insurance Committee:

As a Colorado resident and a volunteer for the American Atheists, which has more than 1,300 constituents in Colorado, I write in opposition to HB22 1136. Sex education should not include a video of ultrasound fetal development. This only serves the purpose of scaring students into not having sex because they fear the consequence of pregnancy. This tactic has been used by those with a religious agenda who want to force women to watch a video of ultrasound fetal development when seeking medical help for termination of their pregnancy in the hopes they change their mind. The classroom is not the place for pushing this political agenda.

Sex education should be about educating students on all things related to the act of sex and providing them with the knowledge and tools to make informed decisions for themselves without the fear or guilt of a possible pregnancy. Education regarding fetal development belongs in a biology class, where students learn about this along with other important aspects of the human body.

We strongly oppose HB22 1136 because students deserve comprehensive sex education without the added coercion and fearmongering. We urge you to reject this harmful bill. If you should have any questions regarding American Atheists' opposition to HB22 1136, please contact Brett Parker, American Atheists' State Policy Manager, at bparker@atheists.org.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Kallivrousis
Broomfield, Colorado