

In Support of HB19-1032 Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education
Testimony submitted to the Senate Health & Human Services Committee
by Kimberly Grogan, League of Women Voters Colorado
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Madam Chair, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. My name is Kimberly Grogan, representing the League of Women Voters Colorado and I am here in support of HB19-1032.

The League of Women Voters is a nearly 100-year-old national grassroots organization with state and local units throughout the country. We are a proudly nonpartisan organization, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government.

Our policies and positions are reached through consensus after thorough and objective study and research of the issues. The League has a long history of supporting public policy that protects and promotes equal opportunity in education and reproductive choice.

HB19-1032 improves on existing Colorado law to protect equal access to health education for all students. Research shows that providing medically accurate, age-appropriate information on health-related issues, including sexuality, helps students to make informed and sound decisions in all areas of their own health and wellbeing. It gives them information on how to stay safe and healthy, which enhances academic success.

The League of Women Voters is fully committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in principle and in practice. I am proud to be here in my capacity as a member of the League as well as a woman in our diverse democracy and a proud parent of an LGBTQ young adult.

There has been a great deal of misinformation and hurtful, dehumanizing, and exclusionary arguments throughout the debate on this bill, but pretending that LGBTQ members of our society do not exist will not make them or those of us, who love them dearly, disappear. My family is every bit as precious, vital, normal and real as any other family represented here today. Our daughter is accepted and loved by her friends and her extended family, including her very devout Catholic grandparents.

Her high school provided non-shaming sex ed as part of the normal scientific discussion of the human body in biology class. Consent and respect for self and others were covered. In addition, LGBTQ students could have their questions addressed.

All kids need love and support and to be free of discrimination in order to meet the challenges all human beings face and to maximize their opportunities. With the love and support of family, school, and community, my daughter met the challenges of serious chronic medical issues as well those of exclusion and discrimination still faced by LGBTQ youth. She is now attending an Ivy League law school. She dreams of having a family. She dreams of giving back by using her education to help other families, especially those with children facing serious medical and other challenges. She is not a threat or abnormal or any of the other terrible things that have been said in debates and testimony about this bill. She is a human being with a generous heart who treats all people with respect and kindness. She is a role model.

Thank you to the members of the Committee for providing an opportunity to testify today. Thank you to the sponsors for bringing this bill.

The League of Women Voters Colorado urges you to support HB19-1032.