

Written Testimony of Stephanie Curry In Opposition to HB 1032

Madame Chair and members of the committee, Good afternoon. My name is Stephanie Curry and I am an attorney with Family Policy Alliance; a national organization which represents well over **15,000** Colorado Residents who are strongly **opposed to HB 1032** for three reasons.

First, Censorship. The state can't have it both ways. HB1032 declares in one sentence that youth should be *empowered* to make decisions that are *consistent* with that youth's "**needs, values, and life goals.**" In another sentence, it tells these same youth **and** their families their "needs, values, and life goals" –honorable beliefs that have been foundational cornerstones for their families—are in fact, according to the bill authors, values of "shame, stigma, and fear"—**and therefore worthy of censorship by this state.**

This state does not have the right to censor traditional values so that it can force its own views about sex and sexuality on every school, family, and child.

Our values are protected by the United States Constitution. Vote No on 1032.

Second, Parental Rights. Parents, **not** the state, have the inalienable, constitutional right to the moral *upbringing* of their children. This means parents, not the government, have the right to define the inner boundaries of what this legislation calls "safe and healthy relationships."

We represent mothers, fathers, and families across our state who emphatically declare, "Healthy relationships are **not** synonymous with sexual activity"; whether it be same-sex, transgender, or heterosexual sex! Respect, Self-Acceptance, and Inner Strength are **not** synonymous with sexual acts. **Parents** have every right to teach their children what these values mean to them. This bill would allow the State to indoctrinate children on state sexual values, while censoring others—those of parents.

We oppose the State's unconstitutional attempt to take over parental rights. Vote No on 1032.

Third, Devaluing Children. HB1032 attempts to define the value of our children by their sexual behaviors or lack thereof. This legislation displays a strange obsession with whom our children are sexually attracted to, how often they're having sex, and what kind of sex they're having. Except factually, most our student are **not** having sex, with anyone. The number of our youth having sex has dropped significantly since the '80's and even more in the past 10 years,^[i] with the majority of teens choosing abstinence.^[ii]

This bill's deficient viewpoint on sexual behavior has **no** place in our schools. Let kids be kids!

Stop Reducing our children to sexual behaviors. Vote No on 1032.

This bill may be parading around the Capitol as a "comprehensive sexual education" bill, but Colorado families know that it is really unlawful censorship, an attempt to oppress parental rights, and advance a political agenda, while silencing any views about sexuality that don't align with the state's.

When it comes to modeling healthy relationships, this bill fails. Our children deserve better. Vote No on HB 1032.