

Vote “APPROVE” on Referendum 90 (SB 5395)

Whereas, age-appropriate, comprehensive and inclusive sex education is critical to the health and safety of Washington’s young people, both short-term and long-term; and

Whereas, LGBTQ+ young people need sex education that addresses their identities and experiences, and that provides all young people with opportunities to understand sexual orientation and gender identity in open, non-stigmatizing ways; and

Whereas, young people need access to information and resources that include the importance of consent and healthy relationships – starting well before young adulthood and well before they become sexually active – to help them understand how to ask for consent, respect personal boundaries, and learn how to utter and accept a “No”; and

Whereas, a strong majority of Washingtonians support requiring schools to offer scientifically and medically accurate, age-appropriate, comprehensive sex education (86% support, 70% “strongly support,” according to Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest); and

Whereas, Senate Bill 5395, which simply formalized provisions regarding “Comprehensive Sexual Health Education” – but without change or compromise to the substance of the existing guidelines in the Washington State Health and Physical Education K-12 Learning Standards – was passed by our state legislature and signed into law by Governor Inslee in March 2020, with the support of Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal; and

Whereas, SB 5395 would require school districts to adopt or develop comprehensive, age-appropriate sexual health education for all students (appropriate to grade level, with social-emotional instruction only in K-3), as defined by, and consistent with state standards, with an option to excuse students by parent request, including affirmative consent and bystander training;

Therefore, be it resolved that the First District Democrats urge all voters to vote “Approve” on Referendum 90 (SB 5395) in the November 2020 election, in order to ensure the availability of age-appropriate, comprehensive, scientifically and medically accurate, inclusive sexual health education which includes affirmative consent and bystander training.

Proposed by Linda Tosti-Lane, July 28, 2020

Recommended DO PASS by the First District Democrats Issues Committee, August 6, 2020.