



The Senate Connection

Connecting Davie and Rowan Counties with news from the Office of Senator Andrew Brock

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◆ Republicans Oppose radical Proposals:

House Republican leader Paul Stam and Senate Republican leader Phil Berger announced opposition to two controversial bills expected to be acted on this week. Amendments will be offered during consideration of these bills to remove provisions most onerous to young people.

The “Bullying Bill” [Senate Bill 526](#) titled “School Violence prevention Act”, was scheduled for a hearing in the House Education committee Tuesday morning. Rather than providing protection to all students from all harassment, this bill specifies categories of victims. “Sexual Orientation” and “Gender identification” are two such categories which single out special classes of victims. Representative Stam stated that he intends to offer language from [HB 776](#) “No Bullying anyone at Public schools”, as a substitute to Senate Bill 526. House Bill 776 has 62 bipartisan sponsors and is consistent with the State Board of Education policy adopted in 2004. This policy has worked well and does not differentiate between types of bullying or potential victims.



It is ironic that the House proponents of the enumerated category legislation claim that a prohibition covering all students would be ineffective. Just fourteen days ago they all voted for the “cybernet bullying” bill, [House Bill 1261](#), sponsored by Representative Nick Mackey which protects all minors without differentiation.

“A majority of the House is sponsoring House Bill 776, the No Bullying Anyone bill. It simply provides protection from all forms of harassment and bullying to all students— period,” said Rep. Stam. “There are no special classes of victims and no ambiguity in our legislation. All students should be provided the same protection from bullies. Hopefully, the house will not use its rule on title amendments to defeat this superior approach.”

“Our Constitution already guarantees certain rights to all individuals. We don’t need to create new or special rights for various groups,” said Senator Berger.

The euphemistically named, “Healthy youth Act”, [House Bill 88](#) is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate committee on mental Health and Youth Services later this week. This bill mandates that local school districts provide “comprehensive” sex education to all middle school students. This prescribed curriculum changes the current focus from abstinence from sexual activity until marriage to a much broader direction promoting risk and alternative sexual behavior.



“Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education”, provides curriculum guidance for “comprehensive” sex education in a way most North Carolina parents reject. It is no more comprehensive than abstinence education, only more radical. Local school districts have the authority to offer sex education curricula other than abstinence before marriage, but only 10 of the state’s 115 school districts do so.

During House consideration of this bill, republicans forced democrats to make several changes to what was an otherwise bad bill during committee consideration and floor debate. As a result, students would no longer be forced to take the “comprehensive” sex education curriculum if a parental consent form is not returned. The original bill required most students to take the comprehensive curriculum. House Republicans also succeeded in having the bill’s sponsors remove language requiring middle school students to be taught respect for “long term committed relationships” as an equivalent to marriage

Using the term “Comprehensive as the title for the prescribed curriculum will suggest to teachers that they encourage middle school students to experiment with various forms of risky behavior. That is the approach of the National Guideline on Comprehensive Sexuality Education.

“Parents should be directly involved with making decisions on what sex education is appropriate for their young children. There is no question that the vast majority would choose abstinence before marriage if they were fully aware of what the “comprehensive” curriculum entails,” said Rep. Stam

