



Massachusetts Catholic Conference
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LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

To: Joint Committee on Public Health
From: James F. Driscoll, Esq., Executive Director
Re: House Bill 2075, “An Act to promote healthy behaviors”
Date: June 2, 2015

The Massachusetts Catholic Conference respectfully submits this testimony in opposition to House 2075, “An Act to promote healthy behaviors.”

House Bill 2075 directs the Department of Public Health to establish a program of “community based health and sexuality education services provided by comprehensive family planning agencies.”

Recently, in 2011, the Department of Public Health awarded a \$100,000 grant to the Aids Action Committee to increase healthy behaviors. The grant resulted in the creation of a website titled “Maria Talks.” This state-funded website failed to mention the risks and consequences associated with abortion while seemingly encouraging children to obtain an abortion without parental consent. Rather than providing referral information to a variety of state-wide services available to pregnant teenagers, the state-funded website only referred to family planning agencies that profit from increased abortion numbers. While the Conference fully supports the promotion of health behaviors in children, the Conference is wary of the Department of Public Health’s past direction in the area of adolescent sexuality education.

For these reasons, the Conference opposes House Bill 2075 and urges an unfavorable vote.

The Massachusetts Catholic Conference is the public policy office of the Roman Catholic Bishops in the Commonwealth, representing the Archdiocese of Boston and the Dioceses of Fall River, Springfield, and Worcester.