

Big changes coming to sex education curriculum in Utah

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by Dan Rascon

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KUTV) - Some big changes could be coming to the sex education curriculum in Utah schools if one lawmaker gets his way. Those changes include adding an anti-porn class for students and training kids on sexual harassment.

"Two years ago we declared pornography a public health crisis in Utah and really this is a step toward doing something about that," said Rep. Justin Fawson, R-North Ogden. "We are having a conversation with kids to say it's okay to say no to any advancement you are uncomfortable with. It's OK to vocalize your opinion."

[House Bill 286](#) also calls for putting the sex education curriculum online, giving parents an option to teach it at home. It will also be overseen by a parenting committee at the state board of education level.

It also changes the heading of sex education from "Human Sexuality" to "Reproductive Health."

We don't teach human sexuality in the classroom right now," said Rep. Fawson, saying teachers do not get into the emotional or feelings about sex education. "My goal is to educate more kids on the things they really need to know as they go through their adult years."

Melissa McKay a mother of five kids, four of them boys, has met with Rep. Fawson and pushed for the fight against pornography in the classroom.

If you get a job at McDonald's you are going to get a week of training with a very intensive sexual harassment piece attached to that. Schools don't provide that for kids," said McKay. "Students are some of the most vulnerable population and they are the least protected right now"

McKay's passion to get anti-porn classes in school and sexual harassment training comes from a close to home experience, where a teen boy was exposed by another student to porn at school over several months.

"[The other student] opened up his laptop and started exposing him to pornography," said McKay. "It's just caused so many problems for their family because of this school's exposure."

That's why she believes it's time to make some changes at schools.

"Schools don't really have policies, they don't have training in place to handle this technological wave where kids basically have access to the most obscene stuff in the world in their pocket," said McKay.

2News reached out to the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and Equality Utah. Planned Parenthood did not return calls, ACLU and Equality Utah told 2News that they are still looking at the bill because it just came out.

The bill's next step is a committee meeting which is expected to possibly take place next week.