

## **Statewide Health Education Standards**

(SF3746, Sen. Kunesch/HF3682, Rep. Kotyza-Witthuhn)

### ***Our Goal***

Our goal is to see health education treated like all other academic standards. Students in every classroom have a right to a curriculum that enables them to make informed decisions about their health, their relationships, and their personal wellbeing. The academic standards and rulemaking process is robust and time intensive, which ensures that the new health education standards will be well thought out and not an afterthought. Our bill seeks to codify critical elements of a well-rounded health education into state law - issues like mental health, cannabis and vaping awareness, child sex abuse prevention, substance abuse prevention, sexually transmitted infection and disease education.

### ***The Issue***

Currently, health education standards are the only required academic standard not set at the state level. We would like to see health education treated like all other academic standards. Statewide health education standards ensure school districts across the state are teaching health education in a comprehensive manner so that students in Warroad have access to the same knowledge as students in Minnetonka. This bill would let the experts such as teachers, health educators, school nurses, medical professionals, and students create the standards – not politicians.

### ***The Why***

We all want students across Minnesota to learn what they need to grow up safe, healthy, and confident. By having statewide health education standards in Minnesota, we're ensuring every young person across the state gets the age-appropriate information to support their health and future. Now more than ever it's essential to have health standards in Minnesota to make sure every one of Minnesota's young students get medically accurate, age-appropriate health information. Young Minnesotans have the right to receive the information and skills they need to protect their health.

### ***Who We Are***

The goal of implementing statewide health education standards in Minnesota is shared by many organizations who interact with this issue in a diverse amount of ways. We are proud to include the following organizations in our coalition working to pass this important issue:

*The Women's Foundation of Minnesota (WFM)*  
*The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA)*  
*The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)*  
*Youthprise*  
*The City of Minneapolis*  
*The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)*  
*Ed Allies*  
*Reproductive Health Alliance*  
*Hennepin County*  
*Minnesota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (MNAAP)*  
*Minnesota School Counselors Association*