

Building healthy, safe communities begins with our youth.

An *Act Relative to Healthy Youth*, or the **Healthy Youth Act**, will give Massachusetts youth the foundation they need to protect their health and plan their futures. The legislation will:

- Ensure districts that offer sex education teach age-appropriate, medically accurate information;
- Require those districts to teach consent, the benefits of delaying sex, how to build healthy relationships, and how to prevent pregnancy and STIs when a person does have sex;
- Require the curricula used be LGBTQ-inclusive; and
- Enhances the ability of parents and guardians to exempt their children from school-based sex ed.

The *Healthy Youth Act*: Why now?

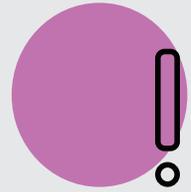
No one should have to say
#MeToo,
especially our young people.



Over 10 percent of Massachusetts teens reported experiencing sexual dating violence in 2017. We must combat sexual assault at its roots.

STI rates

are on the rise in Massachusetts, and young people are disproportionately affected.

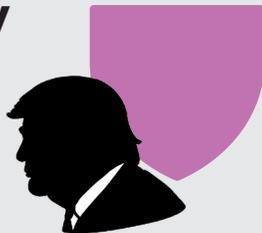


Between 2006 to 2016, the rate of chlamydia increased 24 percent amongst people ages 15 to 19 in Massachusetts. Young people do not have the tools to stay safe and healthy.

The Trump administration is trying to scrap funding for evidence-based programs - and impose an

abstinence-only agenda

at the expense of young people's health.



LGBTQ youth

are disproportionately impacted by STIs and sexual assault.

Sex education must be inclusive of all gender identities and sexual orientations and recognize the health needs of LGBTQ youth.



What is the *Healthy Youth Act*?

The *Healthy Youth Act* will help ensure young people gain the knowledge and skills they need to make healthy decisions about their relationships and their future. Sex education should teach medically accurate, age-appropriate information. Unlike abstinence only programs, comprehensive sex education is actually proven to:

- ✓ Delay the initiation of sex;
- ✓ Reduce the frequency of sex, the number of partners, and unprotected sex;
- ✓ Increase the use of condoms and contraception;
- ✓ Lower STI and unintended pregnancy rates;
- ✓ Reduce bullying for LGBTQ youth; and
- ✓ Enhance students' overall ability to learn.