

# SUPPORT HB 3550

Rep. Ann Williams & Sen. Kimberly Lightford

**HB 3550 will require age appropriate consent to be taught as a part of any sex education curriculum in Illinois**

## Why teach about consent in schools?

In the wake of the recent sexual abuse expose at CPS and as the #metoo movement continues to evolve, it is clear we need to do more in the area of sexual assault prevention. A recent report from the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. found that approximately 29% of female high school students in Illinois and 30% of male students reported being sexually active. In most states, K-12 students receive little or no information about what consent is and isn't and how to set and respect personal boundaries. We need to do better to equip these students for a violence-free future by providing age appropriate lessons as to what consent really means.

## Incorporating consent into sex education

Under current law, consent is briefly mentioned in the School Code but no definition or guidance is provided. HB 3550 defines consent in a comprehensive manner and ensures that if a local school district offers sex education, it shall include consent as part of the curriculum.

Most states lag behind when it comes to including sexual violence prevention and instruction on consent in their sex education programming. As of May 2018, only 10 states and D.C. that required sex education mentioned consent and sexual assault in their high school curriculum. However, this is starting to change. Since then many states have stepped up and passed legislation reforming sex education by adding instruction on consent, including Missouri and Maryland.

The time is now for Illinois to join these states and properly equip students with an understanding of the meaning of consent so they can apply it to their interpersonal relationships—ensuring they grow up respecting each other and enjoying healthy and safe relationships throughout their lives.

### Supporting Organizations

Planned Parenthood of Illinois | Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation | Chicago Children's Advocacy Center | Resilience formerly Rape Victim Advocates

**Illinois Teens Experience Higher Percentages of**

**Physically Forced Intercourse**

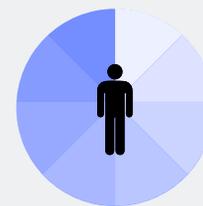
**Physical Dating Violence**

**Sexual Dating Violence**

Compared to the national average

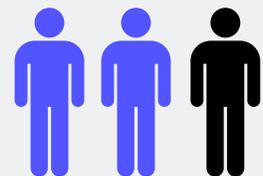
**1 in 10**

Illinois High School Students in 2013



Reported experiencing physical hurt and unwanted sexual experiences in the past 12 months

**Nationally**



**2 out of 3**

victims of sexual abuse or sexual assault under 18 are

**12 to 17**

years old