



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

April 20, 2021

The Honorable Karen Fann
President of the Senate
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1456 (sex education instruction; parental rights)

Dear President Fann:

Today, I vetoed Senate Bill 1456.

Arizona is and will remain a national leader in parental rights, and I support the underlying principles and intent of this legislation: More parental involvement in education, especially around the very personal and sensitive topic of sex education. I'm proud that Arizona is one of only five states where sex education is "opt-in." More states should follow our lead.

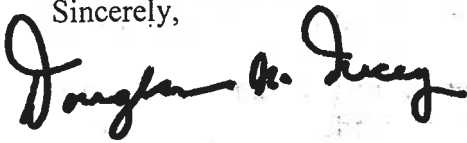
However, the language of the bill is overly broad and vague and could lead to serious consequences, including the very real possibility that it could be misinterpreted by schools and result in standing in the way of important child abuse prevention education in the early grades for at risk and vulnerable children.

While this veto protects against these risks, it's important to enact the most critical policy elements, and in some cases do even more to protect parents and kids.

Therefore, I'm issuing an Executive Order today, that seeks to encompass the heart of the bill and strengthens parental choice and involvement. In fact, this Executive Order goes further than Senate Bill 1456 — requiring more transparency for all sex education curriculum, mandating that schools post the curriculum online and that parents have the ability to review the materials and can make an informed decision before opting their child into sex education courses. With this Executive Order, moving forward, all sex education curriculum will need to be posted online, with no exceptions.

I'm appreciative to the bill sponsor, Senator Nancy Barto, for bringing this discussion to the fold. I know her heart is in a good place, and I look forward to working with her on additional reforms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D'.

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Rusty Bowers
The Honorable Nancy Barto
The Honorable Katie Hobbs