

RES18-081

Wilmington, Delaware
November 15, 2018

#4598

Sponsors:

Council
Member
Dixon

Council
Member
Harlee

Co-Sponsor:

Council
President
Shabazz

Council
Member
Turner

WHEREAS, all people, regardless of race, gender, sex, class, age, sexual orientation and relationship status deserve to have their personal boundaries respected and feel safe in their own communities; and

WHEREAS, a culture of consent aims to change the underlying behaviors and attitudes that support sexism, racism, ableism, sexual violence and harassment, and rape culture; and

WHEREAS, all forms of sexual misconduct, particularly sexual assault and the absence of consent, have become recognized as an epidemic across the country, affecting people of all backgrounds; this is especially critical for people of marginalized identities; and

WHEREAS, sexual consent, which is defined as clear verbal or non-verbal communication of a feeling of willingness to engage in sexual activity, may be revoked at any time and is required each time there is sexual activity, no matter the relationship status or duration between individuals. According to the Department of Justice, more than two-thirds (69%) of sexual assaults are not reported to the police, primarily due to fear of victim blaming or a general lack of support and action from available reporting infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the sources of sex education may be accessed formally, or informally, they should be medically accurate, comprehensive, and inclusive of individuals who are sexually active, sexually abstinent, survivors of sexual trauma, inclusive of pregnant and parenting individuals, representing marginalized and vulnerable populations. Educators must leverage these sources and align messaging to help young people determine how best to engage in positive, healthy relationships; and

WHEREAS, schools remain the best opportunity for adolescents to access accurate and comprehensive sexual health information, only eight states formally require sex-education courses to mention sexual assault and consent. The lack of consensus in terms of comprehensive school-based curricula that supports positive youth development, interpersonal relationships and respect for personal boundaries, necessitates the evaluation of sex-education coursework within public school curricula.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILMINGTON, that Council urges the Delaware General Assembly to enact legislation that includes the discussion of sexual assault, consent and healthy relationships in sex-education public school curricula.

Passed by City Council,
November 15, 2018

Attest: Maribel Seijo
City Clerk

SYNOPSIS: This Resolution urges the Delaware General Assembly to enact legislation that bring up-to-date sex-education standards and curricula, with a particular focus on the inclusion of sexual assault, consent and the development of healthy relationships.