



# AMERICAN ATHEISTS

January 14, 2026

The Honorable Rep. Kristin Noble  
Chair, Education and Policy Administration Committee  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

**Re: OPPOSE HB 1493, Placing Students At Risk by Requiring Medically and Scientifically Inaccurate Videos During Class Time**

Dear Chairperson Noble and Members of the Education and Policy Administration Committee:

American Atheists, on behalf of its constituents in New Hampshire, writes in opposition to HB 1493, a bill that would mandate public school students view hyperpartisan propaganda videos during health class. These videos are designed to stigmatize the full spectrum of reproductive health care, are not medically accurate, and use manipulative language to teach impressionable students to view routine medical care as morally wrong. Health education classes ensure public school students all have the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to become thriving adults. Requiring political propaganda videos during these vital classes is inappropriate and would deprive young people throughout New Hampshire of the chance to develop the tools they will need to live healthy and successful lives. We strongly urge you to reject this harmful legislation.

American Atheists is a national civil rights organization that works to achieve religious equality for all Americans by protecting what Thomas Jefferson called the “wall of separation” between government and religion created by the First Amendment. We strive to create an environment where atheists are accepted as members of our nation’s communities and where bigotry against our community is seen as abhorrent and unacceptable. We promote understanding of atheists through education, outreach, and community-building, and work to end the stigma associated with being an atheist in America. American Atheists believes that no young person should be subject to religious coercion by the government.

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225 Cristiani Street • Cranford, NJ 07016-3214  
(908) 276-7300 • [www.atheists.org](http://www.atheists.org)

HB 1493 would require students in New Hampshire schools to view the video “Meet Baby Olivia.” This video is a medically and scientifically inaccurate portrayal of fetal development used to disseminate political propaganda about reproductive health care during class time.<sup>1</sup> “Meet Baby Olivia” has been condemned by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), an organization representing more than 60,000 medical experts, because it significantly misrepresents the development of human embryos and calculates gestational age incorrectly in order to push an anti-health care ideology onto viewers.<sup>2</sup> The video has also been routinely criticized for other medical inaccuracies, including claiming that fetal heartbeats can be heard as early as 3 weeks, fetuses can “play” inside the uterus at 11 weeks, and life begins at conception.<sup>3</sup> In other words, if HB 1493 were enacted, public school students throughout the state would be forced to view videos “designed to manipulate the emotions of viewers rather than to share evidence-based, scientific information about embryonic and fetal development.”<sup>4</sup>

Using health classes as a vehicle to push political propaganda through mandated viewing of “Meet Baby Olivia” rather than using this limited time to teach young people critical lessons about human sexuality, personal health, and accurate reproduction would place New Hampshire students at risk. Research shows that nearly 11% of New Hampshire students have been sexually active by the time they enter high school, rising to approximately one-half by graduation.<sup>5</sup> The Centers for

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<sup>1</sup> See Sara Pequeno, *Have You Heart About ‘Baby Olivia’? It’s How Republicans Are Lying to Kids About Abortion.*, USA Today (last updated Apr. 7, 2024), <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/columnist/2024/04/07/baby-olivia-pregnancy-misinformation-anti-abortion-republicans/73204195007>.

<sup>2</sup> See Nadra Nittle, *Is ‘Baby Olivia’ Headed to a School Near You? Bills in Several States Would Allow Screenings of Fetal Development Video*, The Hechinger Report (Mar. 30, 2024), <https://hechingerreport.org/is-baby-olivia-headed-to-a-school-near-you-bills-in-several-states-would-allow-screenings-of-fetal-development-video>.

<sup>3</sup> Hannah Herner & Hamilton Matthew Masters, *OB/GYN Points Out Inaccuracies in ‘Meet Baby Olivia’ Video*, Nashville Scene (Mar. 28, 2024), [https://www.nashvillescene.com/news/pithinthewind/meet-baby-olivia-inaccuracies/article\\_4dd032b3-46ba-5f18-ae8a-dfca32a50f99.html](https://www.nashvillescene.com/news/pithinthewind/meet-baby-olivia-inaccuracies/article_4dd032b3-46ba-5f18-ae8a-dfca32a50f99.html).

<sup>4</sup> Carter Sherman, *Meet Baby Olivia: Spate of New Bills Would Require Showing Anti-Abortion Video in Schools*, The Guardian (May 21, 2024), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/article/2024/may/21/meet-baby-olivia-anti-abortion-sex-ed>.

<sup>5</sup> 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results, N.H. Dep’t of Health & Human Serv. (2021), <https://wisdom.dhhs.nh.gov/wisdom/assets/content/resources/yrbs-2021/2021NHH%20Summary%20Tables.pdf>.

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that young people aged 15-24 account for half of all sexually transmitted infections each year in the United States, despite representing only 25% of the sexually active population.<sup>6</sup> Despite these figures, the vast majority of New Hampshire public schools fail to provide instruction on the twenty sexual health topics the CDC has identified as being a critical topic for young people.<sup>7</sup> Rather than waste class time showing inaccurate videos, New Hampshire schools should be devoting more time to ensuring all students receive instruction on these necessary topics.

Health education has a profound impact on the health and well-being of young people. For many, health education courses in school will be the only source of information they receive about crucial topics such as pregnancy prevention, protecting their physical and emotional health, and navigating increasingly complex social situations. If HB 1493 were enacted, students' educational opportunities would be hijacked to promote hyperpartisan agendas instead of ensuring all New Hampshire young people have the chance to learn the skills necessary to become happy and healthy adults. We urge you to reject this legislation.

Should you have any questions regarding American Atheists' opposition to HB 1493, please contact me at [vanderson@atheists.org](mailto:vanderson@atheists.org).

Sincerely,



Victoria Anderson  
State Policy Specialist  
American Atheists

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<sup>6</sup> Joyce C. Abma & Gladys M. Martinez, *Teenagers in the United States: Sexual Activity, Contraceptive Use, and Childbearing, 2015-2019*, 196 Nat'l Health Statistics Reports (Dec. 14, 2023), <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:134957>.

<sup>7</sup> *New Hampshire's Sex Education Snapshot*, Sexuality Info. & Educ. Council of the U.S. (last visited Sep. 11, 2025), <https://siecus.org/stateprofiles/new-hampshire-state-profile/> (Only 16.8% of New Hampshire secondary schools and 64.4% of New Hampshire high schools taught all 20 critical health topics in a required course).