PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES
Department of Consumer Science

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Dr. Robert J. McDermott
Editor
Journal of School Health

Dear Dr. McDermott,

Enclosed is a manuscript entitled, “People are Gonna Have Sex. You Can't Stop It. So Might as Well Teach 'em”: Adolescent Opinions on the Debate Surrounding AOUM and CSE, which we are submitting for possible publication in the *Journal of School Health.*

We believe our study aligns with the overall purpose of the *Journal of School Health* in that it explores high school students’ preferences regarding sex education curricula. Unlike previous research regarding adolescent sex education, our study is unique in that it centralizes student voice and goes beyond testing the effectiveness of curricula. Instead, this study contributes new knowledge by incorporating missing perspectives into the longstanding debate surrounding abstinence-only-until-marriage [AOUM] and comprehensive sex education [CSE]. Using a mixed methods approach, we surveyed 91 high school students and conducted focus group discussions with 46 student participants to gain a deeper understanding of which type of sex education curricula they preferred and the reasoning behind their choices. Our findings suggest in order to achieve health goals more effectively, school officials should assess students’ behaviors and use this insight to develop and teach curricula that reflects adolescents’ experiences and needs. Given recent legislative actions to steer away from CSE programs and more toward AOUM education, our results have timely and important implications about how school officials should determine which sex education curricula is best for their student population.

We declare this manuscript has not been published or submitted for publication elsewhere.
This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board at Purdue University (IRB #1606017855R001). We have complied with the institution’s ethical standards regarding the research activities in this study. There are no conflicts of interest or financial issues related to the manuscript. All authors have contributed significantly and consented to their name being placed on the manuscript.

Should you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone at 305-766-7436 or via email at harri490@purdue.edu.

Best regards,

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