**Public Testimony by [insert name here]**
**State Board of Education**

**June 29, 2020**

Good morning, Chairman Ellis and members of the Board:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit public testimony about the TEKS health revisions on sex education and provide commentary on the current sex-ed that young people, like my **[son, daughter, child]**, are receiving at a Texas public school.

**Who am I?**

My name is **[insert name here]** I am the parent of a student at **[insert name of high school]** in **[insert name of Texas city].**

*If you want, you can also include other identities and lived experiences in this introduction i.e. sexual orientation, gender expression, race, religion, experience with foster care, etc.*

**Why am I here?**

I am here today to urge that the State Board of Education support a medically-accurate and comprehensive approach to the sex education portion of the Health TEKS update. As a parent of a student at a Texas public school, my main concern is that my child grows up to be happy and healthy. This includes receiving a quality education that prepares them for the many obstacles and choices they will face throughout their lives.

Health education plays a significant role in our children's lives, teaching them to recognize healthy relationships, make safe decisions, and respect themselves and the boundaries of others.

*Consider including personal stories about you or your child or children. Did they receive sex education? Were you equipped to teach them medically-accurate and comprehensive sex education? Including, how to respect people of all sexual orientations and gender expression.*

**What do I want?**

While parents are the first and most important educators of their children, I also deeply value the role that teachers play in providing medically-accurate health education for Texas youth that is comprehensive and inclusive of LGBTQ+ youth. For this reason, I am urging the State Board of Education to support a medically-accurate and comprehensive approach to sex education.

**Why is this important?**

*In this paragraph, you want to back-up your story with facts about how a lack of comprehensive sex education is negatively impacting the health outcomes of your child or their peers. Share how having comprehensive sex education is important for your child and other students to feel safe and will give them the ability to focus on school, plan for college, future, etc.*

**Wrapping it up (this is where you state your ask to the Board again and summarize your points one last time):**

**[Summarize Your Points]**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the State Board of Education to include standards in the Health TEKS that are medically-accurate and includes a comprehensive approach that respects LGBTQ+ youth.

**[Include a bold statement here, for example: Every Texas student deserves to receive an education that allows them to make informed decisions about how to stay healthy and safe.]**

*Next, share where the State Board of Education can go to find more information, urge them to educate themselves i.e. website, organization.*

**Closing**

Thank you for your time and commitment to making Texas a better place for all students.