

Offered by Councilor Ayanna Pressley



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND TEN

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND CONDOM AVAILABILITY IN BPS HIGH SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS,** The Health of Boston 2010 report revealed that Boston females ages 15-19 have the highest rate of new Chlamydia and Gonorrhea rates among any age group and the rate of new cases has increased each year since 1999; and
- WHEREAS,** The report also confirms that teen pregnancy birth rates among Boston females ages 15-19 have not decreased significantly since 2003 (certain years having recorded increases) and there are sharp disparities by race and ethnicity; and
- WHEREAS,** Condoms are the most effective way to prevent Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) and can be a reliable method for preventing pregnancy yet research indicates sexually active adolescents often lack culturally and medically accurate sexual health information and face barriers to accessing condoms and other forms of birth control; and
- WHEREAS,** Research has demonstrated condom availability programs in high schools increase use of condoms among sexually active adolescents without leading to increased sexual activity; and
- WHEREAS,** The Boston Public School system currently lacks a comprehensive sexual health education program but has created a new Health and Wellness Department to assess health education curriculum and programs; and
- WHEREAS,** The City has a responsibility to develop an integrated pregnancy and STI prevention system that ensures our youth have access to culturally and age-appropriate, and medically accurate sexual health information, as well as access to other resources that help them make healthy and safe decisions for their physical and mental well-being.
- THEREFORE BE IT,**
- ORDERED,** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to assess the need and feasibility of a condom availability program in Boston Public High Schools and to gather recommendations for sexual health education curriculum, and that representatives from the Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Health Commission, relevant community and youth organizations, and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed on: 11/29/10