



Statement from AMEEN on Michigan House Bill 6068

As a Muslim organization dedicated to promoting civic engagement and community values, AMEEN takes a firm stance against Michigan House Bill 6068. While we recognize the importance of comprehensive education, this legislation introduces broad changes to the state's sexual education curriculum that conflict with the religious and moral beliefs of many families in the Muslim community and beyond.

House Bill 6068 removes key elements of the current guidelines, such as the emphasis on abstinence as a positive lifestyle choice and the prohibition of distributing contraceptives on school property. These changes undermine the rights of parents to ensure their children's education aligns with their cultural and religious values. Additionally, the bill promotes teachings on topics such as gender identity, sexual orientation, and abortion without providing adequate opt-out protections or transparency for parents.

Key Concerns for the Muslim Community

1. **Parental Rights:** The bill diminishes parental control over sensitive topics and fails to respect the diverse cultural and religious values of Michigan families. Parents must retain the ability to make informed decisions about what their children are exposed to in public schools.
2. **Moral and Religious Beliefs:** Many of the proposed changes conflict with Islamic teachings, which emphasize modesty, family planning within marriage, and abstinence as a moral and practical approach to sexual health.
3. **Broad and Ambiguous Language:** The legislation's sweeping language lacks clarity, leaving room for interpretations that could marginalize families with religious convictions.

While we value medically accurate and age-appropriate education, this bill risks alienating families who rely on schools to provide instruction that complements—not contradicts—their faith and values. We believe that sexual education can and should be inclusive and evidence-based without disregarding the rights and beliefs of parents and communities.

Call to Action

We urge the Muslim community and our allies to take immediate action:

1. **Contact Your Representatives:** Express your opposition to HB 6068. Politely but firmly let them know how this bill impacts your family and community.
2. **Engage with School Boards:** Attend meetings to advocate for maintaining an approach to sexual education that respects parental input and cultural diversity.
3. **Spread the Word:** Share this statement within your masjid, community centers, and social networks to mobilize collective action.
4. **Stay Informed and Vote:** Legislative decisions like this highlight the importance of electing representatives who share our values.

Sexual education should empower students with knowledge while respecting the diversity of Michigan's communities. Together, we can push for legislation that strikes a balance between medically accurate information and the protection of religious and cultural values.

In solidarity,

AMEEN Board and Leadership

Empowering Muslim Political Engagement

[ameenusa.org]