March 13, 2020

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee,

Throughout this short session, we as the Board of Directors of the Nine Mile Falls School District have independently and collectively contemplated ESSB 5395 — the Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Bill. We are aware that it has successfully passed through both the House and Senate and now awaits your decision and signature thereby pushing it into the status of law. On behalf of the parents and constituents who elected us into office and whom we represent, we stand unified in our opposition to this bill. We implore you to stop the erosion of local control and veto this action as this bill seems to presume that “one size fits all.” While we do not pretend to know the concerns and consternations of other districts, we certainly know our own and ESSB 5395 has already begun to polarize our community.

Sexual education is taught in our school district and will continue to be, moving forward. However, the way in which it is delivered ought to be left to the professionals hired to discern and implement what is important for our students, and uniquely determined by our community as a whole. Should you choose to sign the bill into law, it will serve to undermine our own elected positions. Given the current status of the general public’s health, we respectfully understand that there are determinations that are singly unique to your office. In turn, we ask that you allow us to work with our families and staff members to determine those things which we believe should rightfully fall under our purview.

We appreciate your consideration of our request as once again, we ask that in this matter, you respect the locally held elected positions of our district as well as the other 294 districts across the state. Please veto ESSB 5395.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Greg Flemming
Chair

Kyle Yancey
Vice Chair

Bill McBride
Director

Mac Mikkelsen
Director

Eric Olsen
Director

Nine Mile Falls School District

Each student will succeed. Effective instruction is paramount. Quality leadership matters. Reflection improves our practice.

We are each other's best resource. Positive relationships are foundational to our success.

We continue to act in a way that matches our beliefs.