



122 State St. #201
Madison, WI 53703
September 7, 2010

Mauston School Board of Education
President Jim Cauley, board members
510 Grayside Ave
Mauston, WI 53948

Royall School Board of Education
President Doug Waterman, board members 1501
Academy Street
Elroy, WI 53929

New Lisbon School Board of Education
President Tom Hopper, board members
500 South Forest Street
New Lisbon, WI 53950

Wonewoc-Center Board of Education
President Rogers, board members
101 School Road
Wonewoc, WI 53968

Dear Juneau County School Boards:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Wisconsin would like to thank each of you for your commitment to ensuring that all students who attend public schools in Juneau County receive an education that prepares them for their future academic careers and employment. The ACLU of Wisconsin believes that all students should have access to an adequate, non-discriminatory education. This is why we supported the passage of the Healthy Youth Act this year.

The Healthy Youth Act improves the state standards for teaching human growth and development curriculum. The new law has unfortunately been criticized in state and national media by the District Attorney of Juneau County who erroneously compared the provision of a comprehensive human growth and development curriculum with promoting the sexual assault of children and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Attached you will find a legal analysis of District Attorney Southworth's claims that shows how any attempt to prosecute teachers for providing the education as specified in the law would be dismissed by a judge before trial.

The Healthy Youth Act is good for Wisconsin students because the improved standards would require that classes provide age-appropriate, medically accurate information on contraception, reproduction and healthy relationships in a non-discriminatory manner. The Department of Public Instruction has resources for schools and parents who want to design a comprehensive instruction that complies with the new law. Please visit the DPI website: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/hgd.html>.

We applaud the Juneau County schools that are committed to providing human growth and development curriculum that is comprehensive and non-discriminatory. We look forward to seeing Wisconsin public schools do the best they can to ensure that students have the life skills and education they need for their health and safety.

Sincerely,
Stacy Harbaugh
ACLU of Wisconsin Community Advocate