



(AP) The teachers union in Minnesota's largest school district has endorsed a proposed replacement for a policy that requires teachers to stay neutral when issues of sexual orientation come up in class. Local President Julie Blaha says the representative assembly of Anoka-Hennepin Education Minnesota showed overwhelming support for the proposed "Respectful Learning Environment" policy in a voice vote Monday. Critics say the district's existing neutrality policy on human sexuality hampers teachers from preventing bullying of students who are gay or perceived as gay, and the district is the target of two lawsuits challenging it. Supporters of the policy include parents who believe homosexual conduct is immoral and don't want teachers telling their children that gay relationships are acceptable. The school board is expected to vote on the proposed policy Feb. 13.