

General Assembly Members,

I am writing to you today to OPPOSE HB119 and SB199. It is very concerning when the state legislature starts to get involved and determine standard curriculum for students, effectively coding a radical narrative such as gender theory and sexual orientation as a mandatory curriculum for K-12 students. This is an egregious assault on parental and religious rights.

While the mandatory opt out in the bill is appreciated, there should not even be a need for it because this curriculum should never be instructed! Parents have had enough of the government trampling our parental rights and thinking they have the right to raise our children .

Schools are supposed to educate our children in basics like reading, history, and mathematics. Maryland schools are now at the bottom of academic measurement in all subjects despite having some of the largest funding per pupil. Children are being robbed of their innocence and forced to accept lies about gender being "fluid". Children should never be subjected to the pornographic material and topics hidden in this agenda. The visuals cannot be unseen and the topics cannot be unheard . This is INDOCTRINATION and SEXUALIZATION. The inclusion of gender identity and sexual orientation should not be included into the state framework or any law forcing it into the standard curriculum. These are topics that parents should determine whether or not to teach their children.

The argument that kids will start committing suicide if they aren't "affirmed" is baseless. The idea that parents should not be informed about their child's interactions with other adults talking to them about sex is predatory and should be criminal.

We have had instances of teachers-people in positions of authority over our impressionable youth- who have gone behind the backs of parents to seduce and groom students. Teachers and administrators are not parents and it is not their job to be teaching their ideologies to children. What is also concerning is that the bill states that the MD Health Department has the ability to change anything in the framework with approval of the Superintendent. This is unacceptable. Nothing should be approved without the state board consent and the local elected Boards of Education should have a role in this as well. I implore you to do the right thing and CRUSH this bill which will put a highly opposed and radical curriculum into law.

Thank you,

Ruth Roberson