

**MD SENATE BILL 0199**

**POSITION: OPPOSED**

**NAME: JEAN M. Benhoff**

**LOCATION: Baltimore County MD**

**Please Vote Against S.B.199, Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Health Education Framework**

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Honorable Chair and Members of the Maryland Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee,

I am writing today to urge you to vote against SB199. There is no defensible argument in support of this Bill. The onus is upon you to defend SB199, and not upon your constituents to defend their positions against it.

I write backed by thousands of years of science, logic, reason, and tradition, which undeniably makes the case that transgender ideology, at a minimum, should not be taught in any way by educators. While individuals have the right to express themselves how they choose, it's not your position to institutionalize fictional genders, nor legislating them into COMAR!

Moreover, under the Maryland constitution, as well as the United States constitution, this committee as a body has absolutely no right to limit or revoke the rights of parents. Parents have every right to parent, and their primary responsibility does not require permission from you or any legislative body.

Our position is objective, it comes with a complete explanation, and it is not based on subjective experiences or notions. Our position against SB199 is supported by a multitude of quality objective evidence, which is publicly accessible. Furthermore, our position is consistent with rules of logic, and offers no contradiction. And while I consider much of this bill morally reprehensible and completely unnecessary, legislating untruths into Maryland code should frighten us all, no matter what our stance is on this bill.

The American Psychological Association, along with the American Association of Pediatrics, should be ashamed of themselves. Many people make the claim that the American Association of Pediatrics, having a larger membership, has more clout: a false assertion. The American College of Pediatrics disagrees with this curriculum and disagrees with transgender treatments. The research is absolute in consensus among the researchers that it's harmful and ridiculous. Pioneer Dr Paul McHugh stated undeniably that the patient " needs their brains fixed, not their bodies," in his published longitudinal study.

And just as big pharma sells drugs on TV, educators, social workers, and politicians, are selling trans options to children and growing the problem. It should be without question, that all individuals should be respected and treated kindly, but do we need to be spending Maryland taxpayer dollars to accommodate the hundreds of groups, narratives and agendas that may come down the pike in the future? Accepting gender fantasies is one thing, but condoning treatment that often leads to irreversible surgeries is another, and while it might appear as care that may give a child temporary relief, numerous post-treatment cases are piling up that have resulted in dangerous physical and mental side effects, deep regrets, and suicide.

Have you been provided with proper long-term safety data on mental and physical health of children as a result of teaching and supporting gender ideology in schools? If not, don't just be a follower of this global trend and unwittingly let this Pandora's Box be further opened. As a member you have one intrinsic duty and that is to do no harm and serve the common good. We ask that you reject this bill and any other legislation associated with it for the sake of our children and families. We remind you to uphold the Constitution and the unalienable rights of parents.

We will not live by lies. We will not accept the lies that support this bill. We will not accept the lies that this Bill, or any associated curricula is good for any child or any family.