

WITNESS: Jill Ellen Smith

JURISDICTION: Baltimore County

BILL: HB 119 (Cross filed SB 199)

TITLE: County Boards of Education—Curriculum Guides and Courses of Study Requirements

POSITION: OPPOSE

As HB119 now stands (with its amendments), parents and local school boards and districts will lose any right or authority over what their children are being taught in public schools.

Parents have the fundamental right to influence and/or decide:

Parents have the fundamental right to know how and what their children are being taught in public schools. Parents are tax-paying citizens and have the right to observe and participate in determining the content and implementation of public school programs and curricula.

Parents have the fundamental right to insist that content of public school curricula is factually sound and inclusion of new content based on new ideology and/or methodology is evidence-based and demonstrably leads to positive outcomes.

Gender ideology curricula normalizes any gender confusion or dysphoria and places that conversation inside the classroom rather than in the home with parents who are the persons with the most vital interest in the health of their children.

Inclusion of gender ideology in public school curricula based on recent changes in public guidelines is linked to negative mental and physiological health outcomes for students. HB119 includes open-ended language which does not adequately safeguard parents' vital and fundamental right to protect their children from exposure to curricula including content on ideology that is not evidence-based and demonstrably causes negative outcomes.

Gender ideology content opens up the possibility of leading children into confusion about their own identity.

There is a growing body of research and statistics full of evidence that gender questioning which has a high risk of leading children into gender altering interventions (mental and/or physical), sets a child up for serious and too often irreversible permanent damage (psychologically and physically).

<https://www.thefp.com/p/i-thought-i-was-saving-trans-kids?mibextid=Zxz2cZ>