

SB 199/HB119 UNFAVORABLE

I am writing this to voice my opposition to this bill. Our system of governance is such that the most control is at the local level. That means we the parents vote for our school board members. This legislation removes local control and puts our schools, our taxes and our children, at the whims of an unelected and unaccountable bureaucracy. This is anti-democratic at its core.

Furthermore it interferes with the fundamental right of parents to control the upbringing of their children, as it removes the parental ability to opt out. That is a critical right of all parents, who know their children best, and who know what their own child is ready for and mature enough to handle.

Additionally the parents know what traumas the child has suffered – the schools do not. If parents can't opt their kids out of things that may re-traumatize them, that is an inexcusable harm to those children. STOP harming kids. You can't possibly know what a child can handle, what their past is, what their family values are.

Being able to opt out of any and all sexual and sexuality instruction is critical for parents who do know their children best is critical to protecting vulnerable students. Early sexualization is traumatic for children. It causes life-long problems with deal with sex, leads to unhealthy sexual behaviors and ultimately addiction and substance abuse. The school is not in a position to know if their information is too early for a particular child. Not all children have older siblings, have access to the internet 24/7, watch tiktok or YouTube. You are harming their mental health and depriving them of their innocence by introducing information before they are ready. This is unacceptable.

The MSBA as well as countless elected officials all over this state oppose this legislation. Parents oppose this legislation. This harms families and children without the ability to opt out. Please vote unfavorable.