

OPPOSE SB199
Primary and Secondary Education -
Comprehensive Health Education Framework - Established
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Dear Senators,

As a lifelong resident of Maryland and mother of 4 daughters, I strongly oppose SB199.

This bill develops a new curriculum outside of the standard academic education for which public schools were designed, that is reading, writing, science and mathematics.

Parental Rights Must be Protected

This bill creates a program mandated by the state with the state's concepts full of subject matter that is the primary responsibility of parents. The subject matter as mandated by the state would give the state's perspective on the topics listed and others not listed which could be in conflict with the parents' value system. The topics listed are not neutral. The topics listed on page 2 are all subjects that should be left to the purview of the parents. While public education might be of assistance to parents, this bill makes the state through the public school system the primary arbiter of a child's mental, physical and emotional health. This is an inappropriate use of the legislative body. Outside of an abuse situation, the state via the public school system has no business delving into the sexuality of minor children and their families. The *Maryland Comprehensive Health Education Framework* includes inappropriate subject matter such as gender identity and sexual orientation for elementary school children and discussion of "solo, vaginal, anal and oral sex" with middle school students. This curriculum should be abandoned completely in favor of leaving the subject matter in the hands of the parents and/or legal guardians of the children.

The "opt out" option is not satisfactory. In the past, permission slips went home for any subject matter outside of the school curricula of reading, writing, science and math. The parents were informed of the new material and determined whether or not their children would participate. Students were not automatically enrolled. With "opt out," children are automatically enrolled. The "opt out" forms are let to the children to bring home to their parents and return to the school. There is no accountability for the school; children are given the responsibility to inform their parents. Ultimately, this means parents will not be fully informed of what their children are learning in school.

Lower Test Scores

National studies and state studies show that overall performance levels of Maryland children are down and trending downward and the majority of Maryland children are not proficient for their grade levels.

<https://news.maryland.gov/msde/maryland-state-department-of-education-provides-update-to-statewide-spring-2022-maryland-comprehensive-assessment-program-mcap-results/>

And

https://www.nationsreportcard.gov/profiles/stateprofile/overview/MD?cti=PgTab_OT&chort=1&sub=SCI&sj=MD&fs=Grade&st=MN&year=2015R3&sg=Gender%3A%20Male%20vs.%20Female&sgv=Difference&ts=Single%20Year&tss=2015R3&sfj=NP

Maryland Education for children is not looking good. Instead of developing an inappropriate program for our children, the focus needs to be on improving the current education.

No Funding for Abortion

The implementation and funding of this bill would allow taxpayer funds to be used for abortion services, funding entities that promote and/or provide abortions and hiring those who promote abortions. Again, this would all be done without parental notification or informed consent. The latest Marist poll shows that 60% of Americans, both pro-life and pro-choice, oppose the use of taxpayer funds for abortion and abortion services. Sixty percent of the respondents to this poll identified as pro-choice.

I ask that you support the family structure and parental rights and oppose SB199.