

Dear Ways and Means Committee Members,

As a parent and constituent of Baltimore County, I urge you to advocate against H.B. 119, Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Health Education Framework.

This proposal orders all counties to teach curriculum in the Maryland Comprehensive Health Education Framework. The framework includes **very controversial** material, which has no place in education. Such concepts are harmful to impressionable children, resulting in illegitimate claims of gender dysphoria followed by mental anguish and remorse.

As adults, we must encourage education that focusses on reading, writing, arithmetic, history, and civics. Sexual positions and gender ideology are NOT education. This is grooming children to be ambivalent to the importance of healthy sexual ideals and relationships.

The Supreme Court's Parental Rights Doctrine maintains that parents have a fundamental right to direct the upbringing of their children. H.B 119 is an affront to parental rights and must be dismissed. The proposal of this legislation puts Maryland in a terrible legal position.

This bill also seeks to take away control from local boards of education (BOE) and school districts. Our local BoEs were elected to represent the families in their communities. Elected representation at the lowest level of government serves the people best. Why would the General Assembly want to take that control away from the people, especially with regard to their own children's upbringing?

Please vote against H.B. 119 and support fundamental parental rights and oppose government overreach.

Sincerely,

Laura Hartman