

Thomas Chleboski  
1101 Carroll Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21230

January 30, 2023

RE: HB 119

Dear Members of the Maryland House of Delegates,

This communication is in opposition to House Bill 119, which is currently before the House Ways and Means Committee. I am a Maryland resident and I live and vote in the 40<sup>th</sup> District in Baltimore City. My reason for opposing this legislation is because, while on its face the bill seems to make reasonable proposals, in practice it will serve as a “Trojan Horse” to advocate for gender theory indoctrination which is based in political theory and not in sound science or medicine.

It is the duty of the public school system to educate children in a basic curriculum that will give them the tools to function in American society and to have the building blocks to obtain and keep a good job, or seek higher education in areas such as law, medicine or higher education. The non-establishment clause of the United States Constitution forbids the establishment of a State religion and at the root of that is the determination that the State would not be in the business of indoctrinating its citizens into a particular belief system. I fully support the non-establishment clause along with the free exercise clause of the First Amendment. I believe this bill would violate the First Amendment because it would mandate that school districts indoctrinate children in certain gender theories which, while perhaps popular in more liberal political circles, have no basis in biology or genetics and are more akin to indoctrination than education. It has as its basis a belief that children belong to the state and not their parents, and that it is the state’s duty to indoctrinate them in whatever belief system is fashionable to whoever controls the majority of the state government.

As a Baltimore City resident, it pains me to encounter so many young people who lack basic skills in language, mathematics and science, which is an obstacle to meaningful employment, thus continuing the cycle of poverty. It is an insult to our children that the Legislature is more focused on passing a bill to provide a vehicle to preach woke ideology on gender than to address the real and serious deficits in our educational system that stymies the intellectual development of our young people and sentences them to lives where they will not have opportunity because they do not have the basic educational tools to achieve their goals.

Please vote NO on House Bill 119. As a taxpayer, I would like my tax dollars put to better use. As an American, I would like the state government to stay out of the indoctrination business and leave the passing on of values to children where it belongs: with the parents.

*Thomas Chleboski*