

General Assembly Members,

I am writing to you today with the utmost concern on Bill HB119 and SB199. It is very concerning when the state legislature starts to get involved and determine standard curriculum for students, effectively coding a radical narrative such as gender theory and sexual orientation as a mandatory curriculum for K-12 students.

This is an egregious assault on parental and religious rights. While the mandatory opt out in the bill is appreciated, there should not even be a need for it because this curriculum should never be instructed! Parents have had enough of the government trampling our parental rights and thinking they have the right to raise our children. Schools are supposed to educate our children on Academics like reading, history, mathematics, not that an eight-year-old can determine their gender or pronouns. This is INDOCTRINATION.

The inclusion of gender identity and sexual orientation should not be included into the state framework or any law forcing it into the standard curriculum. These are topics that parents should determine whether or not to teach their children. Teachers and administrators are not parents and it is not their job to be teaching their ideologies to children.

What is also concerning is that the bill states that the MD Health Department has the ability to change anything in the framework with approval of the Superintendent. This is unacceptable. Nothing should be approved without the state board consent and the local elected Board of Educations should have a role in this as well.

I implore you to do the right thing and not approve this bill which will put a highly opposed and radical curriculum into law,

Thank you
Katie Swim