

Oppose HB 119

Honorable Delegates,

This bill intends to promote political ideology masquerading as health care. There is no certainty on what constitutes good health, the dominant narrative keeps changing, and one size does not fit all, if most. Worst of all, it aims to rule by dictate, overriding democratically elected local school boards.

Just going through the requirements in section (c)(3):

(I) HEALTH PROMOTION

Can one definitively say what good health is? The guidelines and recommendations change every year, sometimes to the opposite of what they were. They say, "one man's cure is another man's poison". What firm knowledge can you possibly require? How do you assess that part of education?

(II) MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALTH

The main concern is that funds are used to treat the symptoms, enriching corporate sponsors along the way. But the root causes of the problems are never looked into or addressed.

(III) SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

Good luck trying to prevent what is being louded as almost a virtue in the age of cannabis legalization.

(IV) FAMILY LIFE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

How do you determine what is age-appropriate? If you value diversity, how do you reconcile the multitude of traditions and cultural differences that Maryland is proud of? I applaud you for taking on the challenge, but the mandate and assessment part of the law will surely break some bones.

(V) GENDER IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION

The earlier you begin teaching children how to pick their gender, the more likely they will try. And clearly some educators encourage such changes and prefer to conceal them from parents. But castration is irreversible. Once grown, a person cannot undo the change, should it turn out to be a mistake.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/detransitioners-warn-of-harm-posed-by-schools-transgender-agenda.html>

(VI) SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

To improve this very important area the society has to address a variety of issues that exist on multiple levels, in multiple groups, and are affected by macro causes. Without a concerted effort, this money may be wasted.

(VII) HEALTHY EATING

Every diet eventually turns into a fad due to legitimate biological and environmental causes. Is there anything more to teach?

(VIII) DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL

It seems that the broad society has learned the wrong lessons from the ongoing pandemic. We may be even less prepared for the next one. Engraving any remaining dogmas into the health framework will certainly hinder our progress and prolong suffering.

The main point of the above is that there is no certainty in any of the objectives that the bill tries to mandate. Various science disciplines already cover most of them. Schools ought to enhance and expand that part of education. The knowledge changes significantly in a short amount of time, thus it becomes impossible to mandate and assess.

Moreover, **why must you force all school districts** to adhere to the strict guidelines? The bill suggests that some “experts” have great ideas about a “health framework” that will improve the lives of many without destroying the lives of a few. Go ahead, spend the taxpayer money, develop, and publish the framework. Ask for a volunteer district to test the framework for a few years. **Openly compare the results.** If the framework is so good, why wouldn't all want to adopt it?

Instead, do you expect great opposition, and thus you must force every district to obey the precise guidelines? The bill requires every county board to ensure compliance and reporting, regardless whether their district benefits from the regulation or suffers. And as often, parents are kept in the dark: **how many of them know that they can opt out?** How many understand the consequences?

The policies required by the health framework do not consider **long-term consequences**, which are not guaranteed to be beneficial or cheap. Perhaps, the forever majority you enjoy in the state allows this rule by force. But all mandates cause harm to some part of the population and can backfire in unpredictable ways. You can turn the health framework into a recommendation. Every **duly elected school board** may consider it and decide if and how to implement it.