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To: Members of the Ways & Means Committee
1/30/2023

HB119 promotes an education framework that is contrary to the convictions of many MD citizens. We take issue in particular to the inclusion of:

- **GENDER IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION**
 - We feel that this is promoting a social agenda and value system that does not belong in public education but within each individual family unit.
- **EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL CREATE AN AGE-APPROPRIATE CURRICULUM THAT IS CONSISTENT WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE HOUSE BILL 119 HEALTH EDUCATION FRAMEWORK.**
 - We have concern about the judgement of such a board to determine what is age appropriate.
- **IN DEVELOPING A CURRICULUM UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH A COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF EDUCATORS, HEALTH EXPERTS, AND MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY TO REVIEW AND COMMENT ON WHETHER CURRICULUM MATERIALS ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH EDUCATION FRAMEWORK.**
 - We have concerns that such a committee will represent a biased viewpoint on gender identity and that the curriculum development will actively encourage and promote lifestyles that are not encouraged in many MD families.
- **SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPHS (II) AND (III) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL ESTABLISH POLICIES, GUIDELINES, AND PROCEDURES FOR A PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO OPT OUT OF THE FAMILY LIFE AND HUMAN SEXUALITY OR THE GENDER IDENTITY AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION TOPICS FOR THE PARENT OR GUARDIAN'S STUDENT IN EACH GRADE IN WHICH THOSE TOPICS ARE TAUGHT.**
 - We are concerned that students who opt out of a certain curriculum will be ostracized by their peers or feel pressure to participate against their value system.
- **EACH COUNTY BOARD SHALL IDENTIFY APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND MEASURABLE GOALS THAT MEET STATE**

AND LOCAL HEALTH EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A STUDENT WHOSE PARENT OR GUARDIAN HAS ELECTED TO OPT THE STUDENT OUT OF A PARTICULAR TOPIC UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

- **We are concerned about what these unidentified alternative learning objectives will consist of and If they also will be objectionable.**

We respect the rights of MD citizens to form their own value systems and do not wish to impose our beliefs on others. However, we feel it is inappropriate to introduce these values into public education and expose our children to influences we prefer not to expose them to. For these reasons, we urge the committee to give an unfavorable report on HB119.

Respectfully,

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