

January 30, 2023

We are writing on behalf of the nine Maryland chapters of Moms for Liberty. Moms for Liberty is a national organization of over 100,000 members in 43 states.

We are writing in strong opposition to HB119/SB199 Primary and Secondary Education - Health Education Framework - Established. This bill would require all counties in Maryland to create an “age-appropriate” curriculum that is consistent with the Comprehensive Health Education Framework.

One of the first problems in the bill is that it overrides local control of what is taught in each grade in districts schools. It demolishes the power of the local elected officials, the Boards of Education, to decide this issue with the input of parents, teachers, and community members. To say it is an overreach of state authority is an understatement. This “top down” governance is not constitutional in representative republic such as our country. It violates the “consent of the governed” cited in the Declaration of Independence.

It also violates the rights of parents to decide when and how their children will be exposed to the extremely sensitive and possibly harmful, corrosive topics of gender identity and sexual practice. Regardless of the possibility of an “opt out” which is given and then nullified in the framework by declaring that parents cannot opt out of lessons that involve possible sexually transmitted diseases or AIDS, every child in our schools will be impacted by this curriculum. We know that an “opt out” possibility is dependent on parents being given due notice of when units will be taught and what will be in those units. This rarely happens and leaves parents outside the decision-making process.

The following standards in the framework will not be acceptable nor suitable for many families:

Kindergarten: Recognize a range of ways people identify and express their gender. 1c.K.5 (page 29)

Grade 4: Identify sexual orientation as a person’s physical and or romantic attraction to an individual of the same and/or different gender. 1c.4.3 (page 30)

Grade 6: Define sex assigned at birth, gender identity, and gender expression. 1c.6.4 (page 33)

Grade 7: Identify solo, vaginal, anal, and oral sex along with positive outcomes of each. 1c.7.13 (page 34)

HS 1: Identify sexual behaviors including solo, vaginal, oral, and anal sex that impact the risk of unintentional pregnancy and potential transmission of STIs including HIV. 1c.HS1.11 (page 37)

Add to this the constant promotion of “systemic racism and oppression and intersectionality” scattered throughout the grades and you have a curriculum that creates division among student populations.

It is also objectionable to us that the Maryland State Health Department, a government agency heavily influenced by Planned Parenthood, would have control over how this curriculum is taught. Again, local control

could be subject to the whims of an organization that has an extreme agenda and great monetary resources to influence what is taught in our schools.

Last November, many of us elected Board of Education members with whom we entrust decisions for our schools. Unlike those in Annapolis, the elected officials on the Board are accountable to the citizens of their counties and can be directly addressed at meetings. This is not the case with the Maryland State Board of Education or the Maryland State Department of Health. Those bureaucrats cannot not know or understand the needs of each unique county school system. Merely providing an opt out choice for parents is not enough.

Recent test scores have shown that our students are failing miserably in Math and Reading as well as other subjects. We need to spend more classroom time with instruction on those subjects and less indoctrination into gender ideology and sexual practices.

Each county and their elected school board can best decide what students need to be taught in district classrooms with the input of parents and community members.

We strongly oppose these bills.

Chapter Chairs, Moms for Liberty


Jan Greenhawk (Jan 29, 2023 20:11 EST)

Jan Greenhawk - Talbot


Tara Thompson (Jan 29, 2023 20:07 EST)

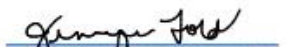
Tara Thompson - Baltimore


Suzie Scott (Jan 29, 2023 20:14 EST)

Suzie Scott - Harford


Kit Hart (Jan 29, 2023 20:35 EST)

Kit Hart - Carroll


Jennifer Fold (Jan 30, 2023 04:44 EST)

Jennifer Fold - Anne Arundel


Donna Culberson (Jan 29, 2023 20:12 EST)

Donna Culberson - Cecil


Jaime Brennan (Jan 30, 2023 08:58 EST)

Jaime Brennan - Frederick


Valerie Walters (Jan 29, 2023 20:15 EST)

Valerie Walters - Kent


Lindsey Smith (Jan 29, 2023 21:32 EST)

Lindsey Smith - Montgomery