



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 under-statement. 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 through-out 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.

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.

As a representative voice for over hundreds of parents in Montgomery County from different cultures, many who are appalled that the very people that they elected think that their role is to be the advocate for sexual educational material, many of the families represented, believe it should be discussed in the home, not in a classroom. We cannot voice enough that it is time that you stop crossing the line of education into parental rights. Today, we want you to know that we the parents, know each one of our children best, not the state, or board of education, and we know what they can naturally and mentally handle and at what times to best discuss these topics with them.

Therefore, we are submitting this written testimony before you today, that we the parents of Montgomery County, strongly oppose this bill.

Representative Voice for Parents and Chapter Chair of Moms for Liberty Montgomery County,

Lindsey Smith

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