

I'm writing in 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. The Framework requires that 7th grade students be able to "identify solo, vaginal, anal, and oral sex along with possible outcomes of each". In addition, the Framework requires that students in Kindergarten through 2nd grade "recognize" and "identify a range of ways people identify and express their gender". Frankly, the thought that an 11 or 12-year-old would be required to describe these sex acts is abhorrent. The bill sponsor is Vanessa.Atterbeary@house.state.md.us.

Outside the inappropriate content of the framework, I am also opposed to the top-down mandates from the state to control the curriculum taught in individual counties. Last November, we 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.

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 advise you oppose these bills.

Janet Greenhawk

Chairman, Moms for Liberty Talbot