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TESTIMONY ON HB#/1430 - POSITION: UNFAVORABLE

Education - Public Schools - Parents' Rights (Education Bill of Rights for Families Act)

TO: Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins, and members of the Ways and Means Committee

FROM: Richard Keith Kaplowitz

My name is Richard Keith Kaplowitz. I am a resident of District 3. I am submitting this testimony against HB#/1430, Education - Public Schools - Parents' Rights (Education Bill of Rights for Families Act)

This bill is an attempt by the opponents of public education to have only their views and feelings about how education is to occur as the guiding principles behind all public education. [The Hechinger Report](#), a nonprofit, independent news organization focused on inequality and innovation in education has reported on “A lesson in hypocrisy – what’s really behind the ‘parental rights’ movement”¹

“The latest bill out of Texas shows what’s really motivating conservative, largely white and straight politicians who have leapt on schools as cultural battlegrounds: They are taking advantage of a moment when [angry parents](#) are packing school board meetings with objections about what schools are teaching and which books are in their libraries as a way to further their own political ambitions and ideology.”

This bill attempts to subvert Maryland values of trusting our educators and the parents and students who disagree with the right-wing agenda by imposing it, as Texas is, on everyone. This vocal minority, often pushing a white Christian nationalist theology, wants this bill to let them invoke a theocratic educational theory and dumb down education through suppression of anything outside their worldview. If the communication they currently receive from the school doesn’t ratify their views on what is taught and happens in our schools they want to control it for everyone else.

James D, Dwyer in the College of William and Mary Law School did scholarly research on “The Parental Choice Fallacy in Education Reform Debates”² further establishing this bill is the wrong choice for Maryland and any other jurisdiction dealing with these issues.

I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB#/1430

¹ <https://hechingerreport.org/column-a-lesson-in-hypocrisy-whats-really-behind-the-parent-choice-movement/>

² <https://scholarship.law.wm.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2508&context=facpubs>