

HB 553 Fundamental Parental Rights February 15, 2024 @ 1 pm

Hello Chairperson Vanessa Atterbeary and Vice Chairperson Jheanelle Wilkins, Committee members and guests. My name is Sharon Blinder Hill. I am here to **oppose House Bill 553.**

Parents do have broad rights under Federal Law, but they do Not have absolute, unlimited rights to control young peoples' public education.

Both Common Law and Case Law have supported the determination that education should prepare students to think for themselves, which sometimes does result in opinions that differ from parental viewpoints. In the United States of America, basic education is regulated in order to ensure the "public welfare." This helps to guarantee that minimal education standards are followed by both public and private schools, including home schooling, so that young people learn how to read, write, analyze and evaluate.

Minors have the right to due process and equal protection regardless of race, gender, disability or religion. The Equal Protection clause of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment requires that no child may be denied an equal access to schooling.

**Vote NO to HB 553.** Thank you.