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Long version of my testimony on Feb 15 in front of the Judiciary Committee in support of HB 0553

As the chapter chair of Moms For Liberty, Howard County, and more importantly, a parent, I am dedicated to defending my parental right to direct the upbringing of my children. There has been a power grab by this government to force citizens, parents and our children to believe and act upon a certain ideology. This is done by lawmakers who pass laws and school boards who make policy. These laws and policies go against the God given rights of Americans, specifically the right to believe and live out our own specific moral code and belief system free of punishment by lawmakers, fellow citizens, school systems, and even companies like eventbrite who canceled our M4L forum last fall.

Because of my specific circumstances I have been forced to send my now 9th grader to public school. I'd like to tell you about how your ideologies have been foisted on myself and my daughter over the last 3 years. My story will illustrate why it is vital that you fight to maintain our God given and constitutionally protected liberties. Instead you have the audacity to tell us that you know better; to the point of insisting that my child doesn't belong to me but the greater global community! This is not liberty, this is not America. You have gotten away with this for far too long, and I and the moms for liberty chapters in this state are not going to sit down without a fight.

Here are some of my personal experiences.

- 1) *Dangerous gender affirmation and severing of the parent child relationship*: My daughter is one of the recent 4000% increase in mostly girls with co-morbidities that are now identifying as a transboy. You and the school system think it's best to go behind my back and affirm this mental illness that she is currently suffering with. The evidence and data out of 5 European countries has clearly stated that affirmation of this dysphoria is the worst thing you can do and both you and the school system is doing just that-against my wishes!
- 2) *Critical Race Theory*: Natalie comes home and says, "Mommy I feel bad for being white" after a history lesson. How dare you accuse my daughter of something she has nothing to do with and to make her feel bad.
- 3) *Severing of the parent child relationship*. A teacher said to her "I know who your mother is, I'm here for you if you need to talk"
- 4) *Restorative Justice*: My daughter was hit in the face while in school in and the administration applied restorative justice instead of giving the child consequences. I was told my daughter and the perpetrator were going to get together and work it out; the plan never took place. Nothing happened and my daughter had to attend her classes with her perpetrator and she was afraid.
- 5) *Counselors not SRO's, Unsafe schools.*: My daughter has witnessed vicious fights on a regular basis (one where a knife was used), in her middle school and both high schools.
- 6) *Disruptive learning environment; not conducive to learning*: My daughter has experienced disruptive classrooms.
- 8) *Violation of the Political Neutrality Policy*: HCPSS violated their own political neutrality policy by asking my child to read Wes Moore's book, but didn't mention Dan Cox. This was before the election.
- 9) *Lack of Equality*: I saw kids getting in school mental health support services while my daughter was offered **zero** support the last 3 years. She suffered with major depression, suicide ideation, social anxiety, gender dysphoria and an inability to attend class. She did not receive an education in eighth and ninth grade as she spent most of her time

in the bathroom. The schools offered her absolutely no support whatsoever despite the fact that HCPSS has pages and pages of mental health support advertised on their website.

10) *Inappropriate books in the media centers*: My daughter checked out from her middle school media center, the book "13 Reasons Why" She later told me that the book exacerbated her suicide ideation. Not to mention that school libraries offer and promote books that contain pornography; which is illegal!

11) *Lack of respect for parents*: I have experienced adversarial relationships between me and the school counselors and administration. Certain teachers and counselors suggested that she join the Gender-Sexuality Alliance/Sexuality and Gender Alliance even though they know where I stand on the issue!

12) *HCPSS does not care about educating their students or upholding MD law in regard to attendance*: Natalie did not suffer any consequences despite me asking the administration to do so for skipping classes.

13) *Violation of Religious Liberty*: HCPSS ' curriculum is riddled with the religion of social justice.

Teaching my child the religion of social justice takes away my right to direct the upbringing of my own child and to instill my values and beliefs not yours. My child belongs to me, not the public school system.

There is a solution to all of the above problems. As lawmakers; do your job and protect my liberties and school boards; focus on teaching our children academics, and let me parent my child, she's mine, not yours!

Author of the book, *Dead Last*, Stephen Wallis has a proven method to produce successful schools in all areas of education. He instilled a culture of Character while HCPSS's culture is Inclusivity regardless of the high cost we are paying.

Stephen Wallis:

"As for the promotion (read teaching) of woke radical gender and sexuality viewpoints, leave such topics to parents, who raise and educate their children according to their own beliefs and values. School districts have no legal or moral standing to usurp parents' rights, and parents neither cede nor lose those rights at the schoolhouse gate. It is confounding that school systems and political policymakers continue not to understand that our schools should be about promoting excellence in teaching reading, writing, and arithmetic, revolving around ideas and values that are rooted in truth, historical fact, and principles that enrich America and embrace a meaningful sense of patriotism."
Stephen Wallis, *Dead Last: The Triumph of Character, Passion, and Teamwork in Education*