



Michelle Wenstrup <mwenstrup13@gmail.com>

Please vote AGAINST HB0161

1 message

Michelle Wenstrup <mwenstrup13@gmail.com>
To: Michelle Wenstrup <mwenstrup13@gmail.com>

Mon, Jan 27, 2025 at 5:39 PM

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to urge an unfavorable vote on HB0161. It is an attack on local representation and parental rights, and ultimately will not help children but may actually harm them.

Kids nowadays are immersed in a culture that exposes them to LGBTQ people more than ever before, so the reasoning that schools need to be the ones to teach them about LGBTQ people doesn't make sense. They will learn about them just by virtue of the fact that they will be exposed to them. Therefore, the true motive of the proponents of this legislation must be the imposition of THEIR opinions concerning gender identity and sexual orientation on children. It is not possible to teach on such topics in a neutral way; such teaching will inevitably involve conveying the information through a moral lens. Teaching about gender identity and sexual orientation is not within the purview of public schools; it is the right and responsibility of the parents/guardians of a child to handle such topics. It is not tolerance, but conformity of thought that proponents of this legislation wish to accomplish. It is possible for people to not agree with someone's lifestyle choices and not hate them. Hating someone means you harbor hostility toward them. In fact, not agreeing with a lifestyle that you believe will ultimately be destructive to the person is the definition of love.

Perhaps some of the impetus for this legislation is a concern about LGBTQ kids being bullied if the curriculum doesn't contain instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity. Concern about such kids (as well as any type of kid) being bullied is a valid one, but what indication is there that such instruction would reduce bullying? And at what cost are we willing to attempt to reduce the incidence of bullying? What about the greater concern of a child buying into gender identity ideology, undertaking gender transition procedures, and then regretting their transition? They won't be able to undo the damage that was done to their body. It is not just gender transition surgeries that are irreversible; puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones have irreversible effects as well. Instruction on gender identity ideology runs a heavy risk of helping to convince a child that he or she is trans when the chances of them actually struggling with gender dysphoria are incredibly small.

Gender identity is a fabricated concept. Just think about it. There is no such thing as a person feeling like the other sex; however, a person might *think* they feel as though they are the other sex. A male can't know what it feels like to be a female and vice-versa. The most a person can do is imagine what it feels like to be the other sex. The reality that some males have a feminine personality and some females have a masculine personality is being misconstrued to convey that such people might be trans. Additionally, many of the kids who are being labeled trans actually are suffering from underlying mental health issues like depression or anxiety, or are on the autism spectrum, and aren't suffering from gender dysphoria. Also, a substantial proportion of kids labeled trans actually are suffering from sexual abuse. Something like 80-85% of kids who experience gender confusion will desist from that experience after going through puberty provided that they are not subjected to "gender-affirming" care. And even for the very small proportion of people who suffer from actual gender dysphoria throughout their lives, medicalization and alteration of the physical body is not the answer. A problem within the mind requires a solution that centers on the mind. Prominent medical associations are "gender-affirming" because, quite frankly, they are compromised. Kids being dependent on chemicals and hormones for the rest of their lives generates a lot of money for the medical industry.

Please have the courage of conviction to do what is right and vote against this bill.

Thank you,
Michelle Wenstrup

