

Testimony Against HB0161

Honorable Delegates

Please vote against HB0161.

Currently, each local board of education must establish policies, guidelines, and procedures for a parent or guardian to opt their student out of the family life and human sexuality topic. I agree with that policy. However, I strongly disagree with the change that a local board **may not authorize** a parent or guardian to opt the student out of education related to HIV and AIDS prevention. I do not believe the State should mandate that students demonstrate the ability to apply prevention and treatment knowledge, skills, and strategies to reduce susceptibility and manage diseases, such as infections that are sexually transmitted, including HIV. This is the job of the parents. Consequently, I and like-minded parents should still be allowed to have our children opt out of this part of the curriculum.

Please vote against HB0161.

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