

House Bill 161 - OPPOSE

**House Committee on Ways and Means
"Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Health Education Framework -
Established"**

Please consider **OPPOSING HB0161**.

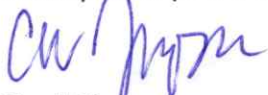
This legislation is an infringement upon the fundamental rights of parents. The public school system should be partnering with parents to promote a family's morals and values, not forcing local school systems to implement what a panel of "experts" believe is best for society. What happens if the "experts" are wrong? Everyone suffers, and there is plenty of evidence to support this claim.

By letting each local school system determine what works best for their students, the State will be in a position to gather performance results on what is working and not working. This information can then be communicated to each local school system as feedback to consider if a change in approach is needed.

In addition to the infringement on parental rights, this legislation is an infringement on local authority. It acts to disenfranchise the voters who elect their district representatives to their local Boards of Education. This bill would silence the voters' voices and hinder their expressing interest in matters concerning their local school systems. A one size fits all approach to education via legislation that mandates frameworks and course content is vulnerable to undue influences by organized groups that have other interests in mind.

By restricting parents' ability to opt their children out of content and curriculum that runs counter to their belief systems, this bill undermines parents' fundamental rights to direct the education, morals and health decisions for their children.

Thank you for your consideration,



Chuck Thompson
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