

SB0566
UNF

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To the Maryland House of Representatives,

I am writing to express my opposition (UNF) to HB0566 Fundamental Parental Rights. I believe that this bill will have serious negative impacts on the public education system in Maryland.

Public education is for everyone, regardless of their race, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, and income status. To ensure that the needs of each student are met, it is necessary to have regulations and guidelines proposed and agreed upon by professional educators (and other qualified individuals). Granting fundamental control over education to parents has the potential for certain parents from certain groups to impose their personal beliefs and agendas on the entire public school system and student body.

As a parent, I want to know that my children enrolled in Maryland's public school system are protected from bigotry and divisive rhetoric. I want to know that they are receiving a full and balanced education. I want to know that they are treated with respect and equality, regardless of their race, religion, sexual orientation, and political affiliation.

I do not support any measures that would allow other parents to limit our children's access to books, scientific facts, and history. I do not support any measures that would allow special interest groups, like Moms for Liberty, from imposing their conservative ideologies on my children under the guise of "parental rights." Everyone has the right to parent their own children. They do not have the right to parent other children. They do not have the right to limit what my children can learn and experience. I believe HB0566 would make it possible for them to do so and I strongly oppose this measure.

Please continue to protect our public education system by opposing HB0566 and protecting the educators and professionals who are best suited to creating an enriching and inclusive environment for our children to learn and grow.

Thank you for your time.

Annie Palya