

Testimony In Opposition to SB0566 Family Law - Fundamental Parental Rights

Bill: SB566/HB666 Family Law- Fundamental Parental Rights

Submitted by: Eric Fowlkes, Parent of Children in Maryland Public Schools.

Position: OPPOSE

I'm writing regarding my opposition to bill SB0566 as a parent of students in the Maryland Public School System specifically Wicomico County and an employee of the Wicomico County Board of Education. It's important for students to learn from different perspectives other than their own. They should learn about cultures, languages and experiences that would not normally be exposed to. It's important so they are given the opportunity to see the world through others' eyes as it were.

When you narrow the educational view you are doing a disservice to the student by NOT telling the whole picture and frankly they need to learn the truth no matter how uncomfortable it may make them feel. Erasing the truth and teaching about the human experience from a singular perspective is just lying to them.

As a parent to a transgender kid, this bill is particularly frightening due the clear lens from where it is being pitched from. The elephant in the room here is that Bill SB0566 is a poorly veiled attempt at curating our children's educational experience into a fascist white supremacist perspective. It is an attempt to erase the truth, and to continue the history where the victors are the "good" guys. They want to erase LGBTQIA+, Black, Latinx, AAPI, Indigenous peoples history and their impact on our country and the world as a whole. If it were up to them my child would not be allowed to receive much needed gender positive medical care or be allowed to use their pronouns, or present themselves as they are. They want them and people like them to disappear because it makes them uncomfortable. This bill is dangerous and should not make it out of committee.

