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**From:** Michelle Wenstrup  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023 2:54 PM  
**To:** Michelle Wenstrup  
**Subject:** Support SB566

Dear Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee:

It is common sense that it is a parent's right to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their child. Moreover, it is a parent's duty to raise their child as they see fit. Decent people should be able to agree that under the umbrella of acceptable parenting people have different religious and philosophical worldviews and are entitled to impart such views on their children. Neglectful and/or abusive parents are a different matter entirely, of course.

Legislators and their constituents must resist the urge to give into authoritarian impulses and pridefully mandate that their worldviews reign when it comes to educating other people's children. It is because of the aforementioned varying worldviews that public schools are supposed to teach just academic disciplines and not teach morality beyond the basic moral lessons needed to manage the classroom such as being kind, not lying, and not cheating.

Religious values have stood the test of time, and many people of varying faiths who subscribe to such values as well as many who are nonreligious but who subscribe to traditional values have valid reason to be highly concerned with legislation such as HB119, which proposes that it be mandatory for counties to adopt the state health curriculum, which proposes that it be mandatory to teach gender identity to kids as young as Pre-K, sexual orientation to fourth graders, and different types of sexual acts to seventh graders. Most parents would want to impart their own moral views on gender identity, sexual orientation, and different types of sexual acts to their children and not have public schools do this.

Apart from moral concerns, it is very confusing to teach children as young as Pre-K about a concept as nonsensical as gender identity when they are just starting to figure out what gender means. Gender is biologically based; not defined by how a person identifies. It is impossible to feel that you are the opposite gender when you have never experienced being the other gender and don't know what it feels like. The very small percentage of people who legitimately have gender dysphoria think they were born in the wrong body, but that doesn't mean they feel as though they are the opposite sex from what they are.

Additionally, schools are in no position to hide from a parent the mental health status of their child or the child's desire to be referred to by another name, as another gender, etc. Such private health matters are of utmost concern to a parent and within the parent's purview.

This bill is needed to enshrine the entire scope of parental rights into law and prevent the increasing encroachment on such rights by such entities as schools and healthcare providers. Please do what is right and support parental rights bill SB566.

Thank you,  
Michelle Wenstrup

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