

HB0666

UNF

Pamela Hohlbein

1386 Jay Rd

Eldersburg MD 21784

The Fundamental Parental Rights bill HB0666 is almost identical to the one introduced by then Delegate Dan Cox in 2022 which failed. Why is a failed bill being reintroduced, 3 years later. I think we need to look at the rise of the Christian Nationalist Ideology over the past three years. And those supporters feel that now is the time to strike to start affecting their end goal, which is to make drastic changes to our public education systems and eventually defund it and have vouchers. This bill provides a vague legal scaffolding that could be used to support future lawsuits from conservative parents seeking to exert control over school curriculum.

Look at Florida as ground zero for the "parental rights" movement. It started with a "parental rights" bill, and has since moved into book banning, erasing black history (see the AP African Studies program) and even looking to replace SAT testing with CLT which is rooted in classical and Christian tradition, Florida's school system is being destroyed one step at a time with the help from Moms for Liberty.

Parents have always had fundamental rights over their children's education. We have always had the right to review curriculum, monitor what books our children are reading, create a partnership with teachers, or become involved in parent teacher organizations. Nothing has changed.

If we really read between the lines, we will see the true intent of this bill and other legislation just like it. Reading between the lines, what will be seen is that it is not about having rights over our own children's education. It's about allowing a group of people with Christian Nationalist views to have control over how all of our children are educated and teaching them WHAT to think, instead of how to think. This bill begs the ask: whose parents rights are to be put above others? Mine, as a parent of a gay, gender fluid child who would like to read books with characters that represent themselves, or the parent that spews hate over our LGBTQIA+ students and wish them to go back into the closet?

As a parent of a public school student in Carroll County, I am not willing to concede my rights to extremists.

Thank you for your time