

Written Testimony For HB 1202: Posting of Curriculum & Instruction Materials:
Please vote "Favorable" on this Bill

Dear Committee Chair Atterbeary, Vice Chair Wilkins and all other esteemed Committee members:

I would respectfully request that all of you vote "Favorable" in support of HB 1202!

I would implore all of you to carefully consider the following points before voting on this very important bill:

- Parents have the fundamental right to understand and direct how their children are educated. Just think of all the things that children are unable (not allowed, if you will) to do UNTIL they reach the age of 18, without parental consent: Vote, buy a lottery ticket, get a tattoo, purchase fireworks, bet on horse racing, get called for jury duty, sue someone, change their legal name, consent to their own medical care, buy cough syrup (due to the ingredients), go skydiving, work in a bar (but they still can't drink!), open a bank account in their own name, apply for a credit card in their own name, buy a car, rent an apartment, apply for a mortgage, get married, adopt a child, book a hotel room, work full time, donate blood, create a will, become a realtor, buy stock, and adopt a pet, among other things. Children also cannot buy cigarettes or drink alcohol until they are 21 years of age. But this bill would allow them to be exposed and view pornographic materials WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT. This bill would make it possible for PARENTS TO REVIEW EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS BEFORE THEIR CHILDREN ARE EXPOSED TO IT BY PLACING THE MATERIAL IN PLACES CONVENIENT FOR PARENTAL REVIEW. THIS BILL IS NOT ONLY A NECESSITY BUT ALSO A CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT!
- Parents are tax-paying citizens and have the right to engage in civic participation in the development and implementation of public school programs and curricula.
- Parents **must retain** the fundamental right to discover and direct the care of their children while those children are attending school, **including the full content of information to which the children are exposed**, and any medical treatment or intervention, including mental health care administered.

*****Students exposed to curricula and materials undisclosed and unavailable to parents are at greater risk of being negatively impacted by [social contagion](#) and may be at increased risk of receiving experimental and potentially harmful courses of treatment without parental knowledge or consent. As we all know, children are much more highly influenced by their peers than their parents, especially when they get to middle school and high school. Whatever social contagion, i.e. the “in” thing, is at that time and what their friends are participating in, is something that will be hard to resist, even with parental input. Without parental consent, it is very hard for parents to talk to their children about important issues at the same time their children are hearing about them from their friends and social media. As many studies have shown, having parents participate in their children’s education has a very positive impact on how successful those children will be in the education system, as well as life in general.

We simply CANNOT leave parents out of their childrens’ education and the educational process!! Please vote in SUPPORT of this bill!!

Thank you for your time and attention. I truly appreciate it!

Trudy Tibbals

A very concerned parent and Maryland Resident