

Dear legislators and others that this may concern,

My name is Jana Hobbs and I have been a public school educator since 1993, teaching in two counties and working with grade levels from Kindergarten through high school. I have been a substitute, an instructional assistant and teacher throughout those years. I have written several curriculums and have been involved in state level educational groups as well.

I am writing in reference to House Bill 119 and State Bill 199. This bill intends to promote gender ideology beginning in kindergarten and the teaching of anal sex to seventh graders. I worked as an assistant in a kindergarten class and those teachers do not need this in any way added onto their plate. Their instruction formats the start of learning for the child (with the exception of pre-kindergarten education) and the development of the love of learning. They are teaching letters, numbers, colors, shapes and the basis of all learning. We as a state are failing our students in teaching them the basics and we do not need to add this to their curriculums. Gender ideology is not something that needs to be mandated from the state level and this power should not be taken from our local school board. We have other problems in the state that need to be addressed rather than teaching kindergartners what non-binary and pansexual are. These are things that should be discussed at home as we do with our daughter.

We should also be allowed to have Christianity classes in the school if this curriculum goes through as that is also something that is taught in the home. We have a problem in our society with wanting children to grow up too quickly and we need to let them be innocent as long as we can rather than indoctrinating them. As long as we have students leaving kindergarten unable to read or do basic math, thereby setting themselves up for falling further behind in the future, we should not be pushing this agenda.

In reference to the teaching of anal sex to seventh graders, I taught middle school for nineteen of my years. The difference in students is astronomical in reference to their already extensive knowledge of sexual practices. They already know more due to the accessibility of the internet to them on a non stop basis. There is a sex component to their current curriculum and as far as I know, it is an in-depth look at sexual practices and childbirth. This school year, at the high school level, I know of at least 4 students that have already conceived and birthed a child. We need to, if anything, add more discussion of abstinence and self control into these health curriculums, more than other ways to have sex.

I challenge you before voting on this bill to spend an entire day with a kindergarten teacher and following a middle school student through their schedule. I am more than happy to suggest classrooms/schools where you may visit. Please visit the school systems that you intend to push this into, as I feel you may be a little distanced from the K-12 education that you received and need a reminder of the realities of life.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

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