

Hi my name is Melissa Macuci Goshorn and I am the mother to 3 children in Calvert County Public Schools.

I'm writing to you today urging you to **oppose MD HB558**, the "Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Health Education Framework." Delegate Atterbury tried to pass this bill last year, unsuccessfully with opposition from MABE, PSSAM and countless other individuals and organizations. If you listen to the testimony from last year, those in support of the bill continued to say "parents can opt out" and that was their justification to pass the bill. This year, in HB0558 you will notice that the opt out provision has been removed for Gender Identity education, which the framework suggests to begin in Pre-Kindergarten.

Why is it that Maryland Delegates want to require something upon all Maryland children, WITHOUT AN OPT OUT, when medical organizations and Countries around the world are turning away from gender affirming care?

Our children are the future and cannot be test subjects with unknown consequences.

A father in my community sent testimony against this bill that I want to share in mine as well.

"Who pays the cost if this policy is wrong?"

Who will suffer the consequences if this policy causes children to come home from school upset and endure nightmares, disturbs them to the point they need therapy, results in them engaging in sexual behavior long before they are ready thereby causing pregnancy and venereal disease, and so on?

Children will suffer the most, with the parents very close behind.

Since we parents will pay a huge cost if this policy is harmful, we have a right to decide what our children are exposed to in school. That right should be reflected in the law.

In short, since parents pay the cost for making wrong decisions about their children, they have more incentive than anyone to get those decisions right.

**Members of the Maryland state legislature must oppose MD HB558.**

Thank you,  
Melissa Macuci Goshorn