

HB 558 OPPOSE

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Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Education Framework - Established

Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee

Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 1:00pm

Dear Delegates Atterbeary, Fair, Feldmark, Grossman, Palakovich Carr, Vogel, and Wells :

My name is Victoria Harvey & I oppose HB 558. I am asking for an unfavorable vote on HB 558.

As a democrat I find it repugnant that this bill is doing exactly what republicans accuse our party of - sexualizing children and more centralized government. This bill also usurps a parents' right to make decisions regarding how and when children are educated about sensitive issues such as gender ideology and anal sex by stripping the option of an opt-out.

Children mature at different levels, the final word on these types of controversial subjects should solely be by parents and not the state.

The attempted centralization of state power will render the local board of education impotent. The citizens of each county vote on those that serve on the board, these board members know and understand their local community more than any lawmaker in Annapolis.

This bill does something that very few are able to do, unite both sides of the aisle against the Maryland state legislature. **To quote Governor Moore "...we don't dictate to the local jurisdictions as to how their educational processes work..." This is exactly what this bill does.**

As a mother of a young child, I am appalled by this bill. I am once again asking for an unfavorable vote on HB 558.