

Good Morning Senator Feldman and Committee Members,
I am writing to urge an unfavorable vote on the SB version of HB558. It is an attack on local representation and parental rights.

Furthermore, I'd like to express my extreme disappointment, and frankly anger, at Ms. Atterbeary's decision to remove the parental right to opt out of gender identity and sexual orientation topics from HB558. These topics are included in MSDE's Health curriculum. The separation of these topics from the Family Life curriculum will ensure ALL children are exposed to these topics, beginning at 5 years old.

Ms. Atterbeary's amendment to HB558 acts to usurp parental rights by mandating this material in the curriculum with NO recourse for parents who object to these topics. Here are my questions for you and anyone who supports this bill:

1. What gives the State of Maryland the right to DENY my involvement in my MINOR child's education?
2. Why will my son be forced to learn about sexual orientation in Elementary School?
3. Why will my son be exposed to the subject of sexual orientation WITHOUT my involvement, while he is at school?
4. Why will seventh grade students learn about anal sex (as included in the MSDE Health curriculum)?
5. What happens to my ninth grade daughter (or any other high school student) when she stands up and walks out of her Health class because the material presented is so sexualized and disgusting that SHE deems it too much to bear? Will she be penalized? (Please keep in mind Health I and Health II are State requirements in order to graduate from high school).
6. What happens when my children are so uncomfortable learning about sexual orientation, sexual acts, and gender ideology from a TEACHER that they stand up and leave the classroom? Will they be forced to remain in the classroom, or do THEY have the right to object to these topics? Will their grades suffer if THEY refuse to take part in such lessons?

My children do not belong to the State of Maryland. I have extreme disdain for ANY legislation that ignores my God given right to raise my children as I see fit. I vehemently oppose HB558 and urge you and other Senators to vote AGAINST this bill. Vote down this bill and let's focus on teaching children to read, write, do math, and contribute to society without stealing their innocence.

I look forward to your responses to my questions. Thank you for taking the time to read this email.

Sincerely,
Meghan Barvir
Parent of two BEAUTIFUL and INNOCENT children