

House Bill 558: Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Health Education Framework - Established: Please OPPOSE this bill!!

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

I cannot urge you strongly enough to OPPOSE this bill!!

As a mother, my first and foremost duty is to protect my children. I take this duty very seriously.

I do not agree with the Primary and Secondary Comprehensive Health Education Framework including the topics of Mental and Emotional Health and Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation.

Firstly, as a parent, there are no specifics and to what is included in either topic. Therefore, as a parent, I cannot determine whether my children should participate in these lessons. How could any parent determine that?

Secondly, these topics should be "Opt-in", not "Opt-out". Mental Health is important, but it is not something that should be taught at our Public Schools. Public Schools should be teaching academic subjects that will help our students become college and career ready!! The more we focus on mental health, that's all anyone will ever think about. What about students actually being concerned about learning academics and having them concentrate on that? That is why they attend school after all. When I attended school in Maryland public schools, no one ever asked any of the students how we felt about everything under the sun. We were supposed to focus on our classes. No one ever asked us any questions about our mental health. So we never concentrated on it!! We concentrated on our classes!!

Why are we attempting to put into law subjects that are NOT academic and subjects that many parents will disagree with?

Gender identity and sexual orientation should not be taught in public schools at all. "Gender identity" is an ideology that is currently being debated around the world. Gender dysphoria is a mental illness that is listed in the most recent DSM that

psychiatrists use to diagnose mental health illnesses. Would Gender dysphoria be taught as well?

There are too many professionals that disagree with gender identity and gender dysphoria to teach it in our public schools.

Please vote to OPPOSE this bill!! Thank you.

Trudy Tibbals
A Very Concerned Mother and Maryland resident