

Support SB948

I'm a Frederick parent who supports this bill. There are so many benefits to it, it's hard to imagine how anyone could be against it.

Having curriculum and lessons posted online will help students who are absent from school, making it easier for parents to help their child and be involved. This transparency ensures that schools maintain viewpoint neutrality and reduces the likelihood that schools will be falsely accused of being either too woke or too conservative. There is little additional burden on teachers in most cases, since most textbook companies offer online access to their materials.

As a pro choice family, you ought to be able to withdraw your child from a Students for Life club or a Republican club. No child should have to sit through a presentation from Brave Books or CareNet if their parents object. And vice versa for other families.

Parents who want to socially transition their child should have the right to demand in writing that the school use their child's preferred pronouns and have those wishes honored. And for parents whose therapist does not recommend that their child transition, putting this in writing will ensure the school and family are on the same page. In both cases this will remove legal liability for school staff and end a great deal of unnecessary controversy.

Our opposition argues that good parents like me must not have the right to choose whether their children are transitioned at school to a new gender identity because some other parents are unfit. Based on that logic, we should all turn in our driver's licenses because other drivers are bad. The legislature has no justification to take away the rights of the many good parents for the rare misdeeds of a few.

Obtaining parental consent for topics covered in family life and human sexuality gives lesbian and gay families the chance to ensure these topics are presented without bias or homophobia. Families with different moral beliefs, or whose child was recently sexually abused or simply not ready for these topics, would be able to withdraw their child if needed.

This bill supports all families, no matter what their beliefs or circumstances, and allows them to be more involved in their child's education. I hope you will support it and urge a favorable report.