

March 18, 2025

Dear Delegate Atterbeary,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB161. This legislation undermines parental rights by limiting their ability to opt their children out of health topics they find objectionable. Parents should have the primary authority to make decisions regarding the sensitive issues their children are exposed to, especially in matters as personal as health education.

Furthermore, the bill's allowance for the teaching of gender identity in public schools without clear parental input or control raises concerns about age-appropriateness and the potential for confusion among young students. Families, not schools, should guide children in these deeply personal matters, based on their own values and beliefs.

I urge you to reconsider HB161 and prioritize parental rights in education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Edwards".

Susan Edwards
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