

Written Testimony for SB 948/HB 1385: Children - Parental Rights - Educational Rights -Please **VOTE YES** in favor of this bill.

Dear Ways and Means Committee and Education, Energy and the Environment Committee:

This bill reads "...Requiring each county board of education, in consultation with certain individuals, to develop and implement a certain policy to promote parental involvement in students' education; establishing a complaint and appeals process for violations of a certain policy; etc..."

SB 948/HB 1385 is a common sense bill that protects our children from political interests and upholds parents' constitutional right to care for their children and be in charge of their children's education. Regardless of your politics, for those of us with children, we are PARENTS first. We are the people that love our children the most. We want what is best for our children. We want our children to grow up to be happy, healthy and productive adults. We want our children to contribute positively to society. We, as parents, know our children the best. NOT governmental agencies, NOT government officials.

We as parents are protected by law to handle the moral and religious upbringing of our children. We the parents should be making the decisions as to what types of materials are used in the classroom and for educational projects or assignments, including what types of books our children are exposed to and at what ages. If we as parents do not want pornographic or obscene material to be available to our children or assigned for our children to read or review, then we the parents have the right to make that call, NOT government officials, teachers, librarians or other school personnel. We are legally protected in our religious teachings to our children. And when our religious and spiritual teachings are in conflict with any material that is presented to our children in school, we the parents have the right to decide if that material is appropriate for our children. If we the parents decide that any material is not appropriate for our children, we the parents have the right to have the "assignment" changed to what we the parents do agree is appropriate for our children.

Parents are tax-paying citizens and have the right to engage in civic participation in the development and implementation of any and all public and private school programs and any and all curricula.

Parents demonstrably have the highest vested interest in their children's welfare and are best equipped to make important decisions for their children regarding their education.

These are simple requests that we the parents are making. And we the parents have the fundamental and constitutional right to make them. And you, our representatives, have the obligation to abide by our constitutional rights.

Therefore, please **VOTE YES** on this bill to show that you support parental rights in education.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Trudy Tibbals

A Very Concerned Mother of 3 and Resident of Maryland