

**Witness:** Jean Miceli Benhoff  
**Jurisdiction:** Baltimore County  
**Bill:** HB0161  
**Position:** Strongly Oppose

Currently, each local board of education must establish policies, guidelines, and procedures for a parent or guardian to opt their student out of the family life and human sexuality topic. I agree with that policy.

*Parents know what is best for their children*, not the Maryland Board of Education, i.e. government. I strongly disagree with the change that a local board may not authorize a parent or guardian to opt the student out of education related to HIV and AIDS prevention. I do not believe the State should mandate that students of any age in elementary, middle or high school demonstrate the ability to apply prevention and treatment knowledge, skills, and strategies to reduce susceptibility and manage diseases, such as infections that are sexually transmitted, including HIV.

*This is the job of the parents.* Consequently, I and like-minded parents should still be allowed to have the freedom granted to us by the Maryland and United States Constitution to educate our children when and how we feel it is best especially regarding sex education. To indoctrinate these young minds is just morally wrong.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jean Benhoff  
I vote!