

# Testimony Against HB0161

Honorable Senators

Please enter an unfavorable report against HB0161.

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. However, I strongly disagree with the change that a local board **may not authorize** a parent or guardian to opt the student out of the teaching of Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation

I urge you to read the joint testimony of the Maryland State Department of Education and the State Board of Education who urged the Delegates to enter an unfavorable report. I also urge you to read the testimony of Howard County School Board who urged the Delegates to enter an unfavorable report. They said in part

**The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) wrote a January letter in opposition of H.B. 161 that described the legislation as unnecessary because it repeats aspects of Maryland law. The letter stated the bill would “run counter to the process entrusted to the State Board and MSDE.”**

**The Howard County Public School Board, which oversees education in Atterbeary’s district, wrote a January letter in opposition of the bill in a letter that expressed concerns about government overreach.**

**“Legislation that limits local board decision-making authority may weaken the Board’s bond with the local community and adversely impact the community’s participation in the governance and operation of the school system.”**

I strongly support their positions.

Consequently, I and like-minded parents believe we should still be allowed to have our children opt out of the proposed Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation module for this framework.

Please enter an unfavorable report against HB0161.

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