



Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee is strongly opposed to HB 0161. This is the third attempt to jam this horrible bill through the legislative process. It is wildly unpopular with parents and local school districts. It is opposed by parents because it usurps parental rights to opt their children out of gender ideology and sexual orientation curriculum. It is opposed by local school boards because it usurps local autonomy.

Gender identity and sexual orientation are exceptionally controversial topics. Many parents question why this is even being included in school curricula. The inability to opt out of this is a step too far. Parents should decide what their kids learn, especially on sex and health matters.

HB 161 centralizes control of education, ignoring community diversity and local decision-making. Our school boards know their students and community best, and this bill undermines that. The bill's requirement for compliance reports suggests heavy oversight, likely increasing administrative burdens and costs. These resources could go to teachers and educational needs instead, especially at a time when educational funding is in a state of chaos.

If parents can opt out of family life and human sexuality, why can't they opt out of gender identity and sexual orientation lessons?

Parents have the fundamental right to oversee the education of their children. This bill is a blatant overreach of parent's rights.

Furthermore, by giving the state the final say on what is taught and whether parents can opt out or not completely ignores local boards of education's role to approve curriculum that is deemed appropriate for each LEA. This one-size-fits-all approach ignores our state's diversity and local decision-making.

Moms for Liberty Maryland Legislative Committee respectfully requests an unfavorable report for HB 0161. We urge the committee to reject HB 161 to preserve local control and respect parental rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

