

HB 0161 OPPOSE

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Primary and Secondary Education - Comprehensive Education Framework - Established

Ways & Means Committee

Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 1:00pm

Dear Delegates Atterbeary, Wilkins, Feldmark, Eborsole, Fair, Feldmark, Mireku-North, Carr, Patterson, Roberson, Roberts, Vogel, Wells, Wims, Wu, and Young :

My name is Victoria Harvey & I oppose HB 0161. I am asking for an unfavorable vote on HB 0161.

As a democrat I find it repugnant that this bill is doing exactly what republicans accuse our party of - sexualizing children and more centralization of government. This bill also usurps a parents' right to make decisions regarding how and when children are educated about sensitive issues such as gender ideology by eliminating the opt-out.

Children mature at different levels, the final word on these types of controversial subjects should solely be by parents and not the state. This is the third year that this bill is being attempted to shoved down parents throats.

The attempted centralization of state power will render the local board of education impotent. The citizens of each county vote on those that serve on the board, these board members know and understand their local community more than any lawmaker in Annapolis.

To quote Governor Moore "...we don't dictate to the local jurisdictions as to how their educational processes work..." This is exactly what this bill does. This bill will force more students into private & home school.

As a parent I am appalled by this bill. I am once again asking for an unfavorable vote on HB 0161.