

March 17, 2021

RE: SSB223

Good morning,

I strongly oppose this bill. This fringes on the 14th Amendment, Freedom of Religion, separation of Church and State, and school choice. Both of my children (6th and 4th graders) spent their K-5 years in the WVWL school district, but this year, I had to enroll them at a private Catholic school. I enrolled them not because of the pandemic, but because of the new comprehensive sexuality education agenda and other things being taught that are not allowing our children to prosper academically and are only confusing them. I asked the principal in Feb 2020 if they were going to teach CSE, and he replied he didn't know what that was. Then in March 2020, I found out that the teacher told my child and kids in her class that they could choose to be a boy or a girl or a neither, without parental permission or follow up call/email. I am an LGBTQT supporter as both my siblings are gay, and my own sister had gender issues when she was younger due to sexual abuse. She never looked back at wanting to be a boy when we moved away from the predator. Imagine if she grew up in today's society where schools are pushing kids to question what God has given them? She would've gone through hormone blockers, which cause a lot of side effects and could cause sterility, probably had a double mastectomy, and would've committed suicide by early 20's because the underlying issues of sexual abuse was not addressed. For schools to plant that seed in highly suggestible kids as early as Kindergarten (or third grade like my daughter), where their pre-frontal cortex isn't fully developed, even my sister said that would only confuse children.

This is not only about the gender issues, it is the sexual content of CSE introducing masturbation as early as Kindergarten, telling kids they can get HIV from anal/oral sex or sharing needles (as early as 4th grade!), and other mind-blowing things that I didn't know existed until my early 20s, are being introduced to innocent children? What is wrong with the education system? You are overstepping boundaries and pitting children against parents. Now you want to overreach once again, just when I thought I escaped this indoctrination, and want our private schools to register with ODE and implement all the things that I work myself to the bone to pay to protect my kids from? I don't think so. Please stay in your lane.

In addition, the public schools have unfortunately failed our kids with poor education. I had to put both my kids in Mathnasium for a few years to catch them up. That's about \$300/month per kid. Since putting both kids in the private school, and seeing what they are teaching them vs what their public school peers are being taught, the public kids are just now learning things that my kids already mastered in the beginning of this school year. I see now how far behind the public-school kids are, and it makes me sad for those not able to afford a private school education. I pay over \$12k in property taxes a year, and now have to make a small mortgage payment every month for private school tuition just to keep them far away from ODE guidelines. Please stop this nonsense! Separation of Church and State.

Sincerely,

Fatemeh Carter