

Submitter: Jeff Myers
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB2656

Good day to you all. Over the past two years, I have been actively engaging with my kids' schools, their district staff, and folks at the state level. I have been shocked at the consistent overreach of schools, especially in the area of personal information of children and their families. Have you reviewed the surveys they send out to every grade? Have you asked these folks promoting the bill why each of these questions are needed? Who gets this data and how are they using it?

This is again a very nice sounding bill with seemingly innocent purposes. I'm sure most of us have been in workplaces that conduct surveys to get an idea of what's working, where improvements can be made, and so on. These surveys go far, far beyond that. They drill into the sexual experiences of our youth. They ask leading questions about their home life. They do not serve the purpose the bill sponsors and promoters would have you believe.

I refer to myself as a "data geek". I regularly work with and analyze data, and with that I can easily spot when data is being misused or when questions are worded to achieve a particular result. For example, there's other testimony for this bill that claims a minority (47%) of LGBTQ2SIA+ students don't feel affirmed at school. What about non-LGBTQ2SIA+ students? How has that percentage trended over time? How have these surveys and actions they've taken made a positive or negative impact? What is the target % we expect to see? What does it mean to be affirmed?

The reason you don't get answers to all those questions is because those promoting these surveys don't have a clue. They are very skilled at producing lengthy reports that cite various sources and surveys, but if you spend the time to read them you'll see they are a lot of fluff. Sorry, I realize that's a very bold statement to make, but it's true. They have an agenda to conduct these surveys and obtain this information.

Similar to testimony I gave on another bill you're hearing on the 8th, I want to again point out how schools have shifted too far away from their core mission of educating our state's youth. Year after year we have witnessed academic achievement go down, yet somehow the education leaders and their partner organizations keep coming back to you with more ideas that have nothing to do with academics. Please tell these people to stay in their lane and only bring bills that will improve academic achievement of our state's youth through proven methods that are backed by clear and relevant evidence.

There's a reason only 32% of the districts have adopted these surveys. Rather than

pushing the other 68% to adopt them, you should be asking why the heck the other 32% thought these were a good idea.

Thank you for your time and support to return schools to being... schools.