

Hello,

I am writing in response to the proposed bill H 5837, introduced by Representatives Roberts, Quattrocchi, and J. Brien.

This proposal is unnecessary given the existing opt-out made available to all families and harmful as it excludes LGBTQ education from health topics. We know that LGBTQ youth are at greater risk for not having appropriate access to healthcare and the knowledge needed to keep themselves safe, in addition to higher incidences of depression and anxiety. Exclusion from such basic, fundamental health education is nothing short of discriminatory.

As I'm sure you're already thinking, this proposal also opens the doors for parents to dictate curriculum far beyond health. We must trust health and education experts to make those decisions.

Parents are already made fully aware of instructional topics in health education. As a parent of a middle school student, I receive these notices regularly. Requiring full opt-in for the curriculum to be delivered is needless. The mechanisms for exclusion already exist. Further, requiring full opt-in puts an undue burden on schools to chase down parents who haven't responded. The resources of our schools are already stretched very thin and don't need the added complexity of full parental agreement.

Thank you for your time.

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