

To the House Education Committee and whomever else it may concern,

I am sending you my written testimony in opposition to H 5837 (AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION -- CURRICULUM).The text follows my signature. Thank you so much.

Best,
Tyler Hayes

I firmly believe that H 5837 is a terrible bill that exists only to push a homophobic agenda in a state that until today I would have said was proud to be a bastion of safety for LGBT+ people. The right to opt a child out of a curriculum already exists in our state. Requiring opt-in from everyone on a curriculum -- and not only that, requiring consent be unanimous -- is nothing but attempting to restrict others' freedoms in the name of ensuring rights that parents already have. This bill as written will very likely be used as a cudgel to prevent children from being exposed to anything with LGBT+ topics in it, or whatever other cause a single parent decides is important to keep away from children. If somehow homophobia doesn't concern the assembly, requiring unanimous consent could even be used by LGBT+ parents to prevent students from learning that straight people exist, if they wanted; or by a parent with fringe beliefs to insist on something bizarre like there being only one gender or children being delivered by storks. This bill removes parental freedoms, harms children and educators both, and puts the many at the mercy of the few. Please let this bill fall into the dustbin of history.