

Thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Rebekah and I have my bachelors degree in Kinesiology and a Masters in Human Services with a specialization in Health and wellness. I am also a mother to 4 amazing children. I am here to stand in strong opposition to Bill HF358.

When I first was made aware of this bill, I decided to research and look into what the curriculum would be and what books would be used. What I read and saw, I was horrified and shocked that anyone in my state legislature would be promoting this and wanting this comprehensive sex health education in our children's schools. I began to discuss this with the moms in my community and they were completely unaware of what would be in the curriculum and they were angered that our kids could be subjected to this incredibly graphic and pornographic material. Most parents have no idea what CSE curriculum would be teaching and I can confidently say if they knew, they would stand in solidarity with each other and say NO. In the material, there are numerous pictures of grown naked men and women, pictures of couples having sex, teaching kids how to masturbate, and teaching children gender theories that have yet to stand the test of time. Not only is this inappropriate in a school setting but I am not willing to let my children be a psychological experiment. Exploration of diverse gender identities can cause confusion for children and create unnecessary mental health issues. This could create more harm to a child than good. If a parent wants to have these discussions with their children, it is more appropriate for them to do so than for it to be done at school. Also, this curriculum is deeply disrespectful to our fellow Muslim, Jewish, and Christian communities.

Another issue that I fear is that this type of graphic exposure is grooming our children. I have had a heart for protecting children for a long time, even before my children were born. Sex trafficking is not only worldwide, but it is a booming business in the united states. It happens in every state and every county. The CSE curriculum that would be used would be a predators dream. They target vulnerable people and this could be used to exploit children in multiple ways. This curriculum is unsafe and harmful to children.

Our public schools are already seeing a decline in enrollment due to the pandemic. I am afraid that if this is implemented, we will see even more parents pull their children out of the public education system.

Rebekah