

From ...

KEVIN PRIOLA
Colorado State Senator
200 E. Colfax Ave., Room 346
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-4855
kpriola@gmail.com



If proposed legislation intent is to provide a comprehensive education, I think comprehensive is the word ~~to be~~ that needs to be defined, clearly. How can all education be comprehensive if the bill prohibits an approach of education at either end of the spectrum.

~~HB~~

HB 19-1032

I am a mother + grand mother
in CO, 80004.

I strongly oppose this bill
which infringes upon the rights
+ responsibilities of parents.

Connie R Feight

HB 19-1032

I am a retired educator and State Reading Specialist residing in Arvada, CO 80007.

I strongly oppose this bill which infringes upon the rights and responsibility of parents.

Karen L. Smith

My name Janya Ramirez ZC=80219

I vote against the bill 8-212 - HB 19-1032

My reason:

As a mother and grandmother I will not agree if schools have explicit sexual education.-

United States of America was found under a Christian values

Now if we open this space to our society, instead of bring a solution to our community will bring a big confusion to our kids.-

I can not teach my kids, grandkids and community something that I am against to--

A good solution can be a good programs to help this society to persons who really wants to be involve on.-

HB-19-1032 - Written Testimony

Against

Jacquelyn Graham
Principal

Inner City School

One of the arguments for this bill is that parents can "opt" out of the class. As an educator that deals with parents on a daily basis, many of them do not read or respond to correspondence sent home with their child. Children will automatically take this class because never knew it was offered. In addition, children will be exposed to the human sexuality curriculum by their peers who are taking these classes, there is no escape.

It is not the States role to teach children about sex.

Who determines what a "healthy" relationship looks like?

Sarah Deeney
10931 E 28th Pl
Denver, CO 80238
sarah.galgano.deeney@gmail.com

Re: HB 19-1032

Testimony before the Colorado House Committee for Health & Insurance

Dear Madame Chair Lontine and members of the committee:

I am a Colorado and Denver resident, and the mother of three children. My oldest child has been a student at our local public school for four years. Our family is invested in our public schools. My husband and I are both products of public school education, and we take our role as first educators of our children seriously.

I am here to ask you to vote NO on HB 19-1032. Human sexuality is a topic that parents have a right to have a voice in how it is discussed with their own children. It is a sensitive topic and parents have the right to determine when and how it is approached with their children. Local school boards are in the best position to make determinations with local parents about how to approach and implement a study of human sexuality. I am especially concerned about this bill taking away what is rightly the responsibility of individual school boards to determine for their own districts. It has nationally been the standard for local school boards in conjunction with local parents to determine curricula, and this is one example of why that works best.

Colorado has a rich history of responsiveness to parental involvement. If this legislation is passed, it will lead to fewer voices at the table of discourse and less involvement from parents specifically. Children are best served when they are exposed to a broad spectrum of the human experience, and I believe that this bill will limit that exposure.

Children are individuals, not a mass produced group. Not every child can or should be cast from the same mold of particular ways of educating a child. I fear that this bill pushes parents, who are most uniquely suited in proximity to each individual child to survey and advocate for the individual child's needs, out of the equation of educating children, even on a local policy level.

It is for these reasons, the rights of parents and the autonomy of local school boards to make decisions about what curriculum is best suited to the children in that district, that I ask you to vote no on HB 19-1032.

Thank you for giving me a voice as a parent with children in Colorado public schools.

1-30-2019

Deanne Vizurraga
Centennial, CO ~ 80121

Comprehensive Human Sexuality Bill

I oppose ~~to~~ HB 19-1032. It ~~is~~ is
a stark ~~of~~ ~~er~~ erosion of
parental rights. It also contradicts
natural law.

Just teach kids to do unto others
as they would ~~to~~ do unto themselves.

303-746-5698

Jan. 30, 2019

Dear chair and Members of the Committee -

I am opposed to HB19-1032. I am concerned about the promotion of a state ideology on sexual orientation, sexual norms, and gender being promoted in public schools. As a former public school teacher who was forced to promote gender ideology in direct contrast to my understanding of gender, which is supported by science, medical health professionals, mental health advocates, and many parents of the students. As a teacher, I was forced to violate my own beliefs to promote an ideology I believe is dangerous to children. ~~HB~~ HB19-1032 would violate the freedoms of teachers forced to promote agendas against their beliefs.

Abriana Chilelli
1393 Osceola St.
Denver, CO 80204
970-215-9769

Cara Weller

720-469-8076

HB19-1032

I am strongly against HB19-1032.

① This is the government overstepping their bounds in regards to education of children. ~~There is no~~ ~~education~~
Parents need a more direct say in their children's sexual education. This bill would take that away from parents. Most importantly is the part of the bill that would allow schools to speak on gender without notifying the parents. Totally unacceptable!

② It attacks Christian values and does not allow freedom of religion.

③ Our government is based on minimal government. These issues handled at a state level are inappropriate. The local school with parents should determine sex-education

2019

Comprehensive Human

NO ON Sexuality Bill

Beatriz Scedza from Centennial
Colorado • 704-787-3033

~~OPPOSE~~ OPPOSE BILL HB19-1032 -
~~the~~ Comprehensive human Sexuality
bill. This bill contradicts NATURAL
LAW and denies my right as
a parent to be informed on
the classes taught at school.
This type of education will
confuse children about their
sexuality.

I vote against Bill HB-1032

→ This law would take away my
right to direct my son's sexual
education. I heard a homosexual
teacher in NPR radio talking about
teaching his kindergarten class
about sex & sexual morality.
He said many things that go
against natural law. What if
this teacher's morality is wrong?
~~My~~ My children should not be
subjected to anyone's "particular
feelings" about ~~the~~ what they →

OVER

subjectively feel is right or wrong.

I vote NO on HB 1032.

VOTE NO on HB 1032

Thank you for reading & your consideration.

Debra Salzg

RE Bill: HB19-1032

YVONNE D. BARTLETT JekKandden@gmail.com
Commerce City, CO (303) 557-8448

I UNDERSTAND AND APPROVE OF
~~THE~~ THE NEED FOR AN UNDERSTANDING
OF THE PHYSICAL BODY, REPRODUCTION
AND HOW TO KEEP ONE SAFE FROM
SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES. HOWEVER,
THIS BILL GOES BEYOND THAT AND
I FIND IT DISRESPECTFUL, IRRESONSIBLE,
AND A GROSS MISAPPROPRIATION AND USE
OF FUNDS.

THIS BILL INTIMATES THAT THE SEXUAL
METHODOLOGY OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN
AS WELL AS TRANSGENDER GROUPS WILL
BE EXPLAINED OR TAUGHT.

FURTHER, THE MONEY (MILLION DOLLARS)
THAT IS OFFERED TO ALLOW THIS INTO
SCHOOL CURRICULUM IS COERCIVE. WHAT
SCHOOL WOULDN'T WANT THE EXTRA FUNDS.

THIS CURRICULUM IS BEING OFFERED
DOWN TO THE 4TH GRADE LEVEL. So
WE ARE NOW GOING TO TEACH THE
"KAMA SUTRA" TO OUR KIDS?!

THIS IS DISRESPECTFUL TO THE GAY/TRANS
COMMUNITY AS WE HAVE NO BUSINESS

GAY AND TRANS
IN THEIR SEX LIFE. IF THESE ~~MEMBERS~~ MEMBERS
IN OUR SCHOOLS HAVE QUESTIONS, THERE
ARE SERVICES AVAILABLE, COUNSELING,
PLANNED PARENTHOOD, WHO CAN ANSWER
THEIR QUESTIONS.

I DON'T FEEL MY TAX DOLLARS SHOULD
BE USED FOR THIS MISREPRESENTATION OF
SEXUAL EDUCATION OR TO BE A VOYEUR
INTO SOMEONE ELSE'S SEX LIFE.

BASICS - YES

SEXUAL SAFETY - YES

REPRODUCTION - YES

ABSTINENCE - YES

PORN CLASS - NO !!

~~NO~~

January 30, 2019

25

To whom it may concern, to our representatives
and to all members of the Health and Insurance Committee:

On behalf of my family & extended family, friends
and many others who could not be here to testify,

I strongly oppose HB-1032.

This bill will corrupt our children even further
on a moral level. It is putting information in our
children's heads that should a) come from their parents
or guardian only and b) should be presented at an
appropriate age deemed by the parent or guardian, in
the most respectful way, as sex is sacred.

This bill, HB-1032 is also removing our God-given
right to parent our children as we see fit.

Please, let parents be parents and kids be kids!

Do not put tools that can harm our children in
their hands before they can handle it. Do not put a
gun in a 9-12yr olds hands and expect nothing bad
to happen... expect severe consequences!

This is very serious and not only our children
will suffer, but our state as a whole and potentially
even you. Please consider all of the consequences
that will take place as a result of this bill.

Our nation was not built on such low standards,
and it will not thrive on low standards either.

Let's raise the bar and teach our children
good and right things - especially concerning morals!

Stephanie Kelley 720-563-1161 Stephanie.Kelley23@gmail.com

4906 E 109th Ct.
Thornton, CO 80233

I am against HB-1032

I strongly oppose HB-1032.

This bill will strip our children of their right to a normal childhood. It is a gross violation of our children's rights. We must fight to keep our children safe and healthy. The most important thing is to protect our children from any harm. This bill HB-1032 is a dangerous and unjust law. It will strip our children of their right to a normal childhood. We must fight to keep our children safe and healthy. The most important thing is to protect our children from any harm. This bill HB-1032 is a dangerous and unjust law. It will strip our children of their right to a normal childhood. We must fight to keep our children safe and healthy. The most important thing is to protect our children from any harm.

I would like to ask you to vote NO on bill
HB1032
~~HB 1032~~

on this bill. I came to listen and cannot stay due to the fact that I need to pick up my daughter. I strongly oppose the teaching of LGBT sexuality and how it is expressed and the indoctrination of children as young as 5 years old.

I would oppose this as strongly as if it were supporting segregation or slavery. I believe it is morally wrong for the government and schools to try to supersede a parents right to teach their children their beliefs. It is a socialist notion to give the government control over our children's emotional wellbeing.

VOTE NO on HB1032



Most sincerely,

Diane Richard

303-929-9700

772 So. Moore Ct.

Lakewood CO 80226

Jefferson County resident and parent of
5 children

PROJECT RECORD

PROJECT: H319-1032

BY: Jodi Randa

DATE: 1/30/2019

TIME: 3:04 pm



PARTIES PRESENT:

* This bill has ^{caution} eternal consequences *

NOTES:

I am ^{native} a parent & a grandparent in Castle Rock & I oppose this bill for multiple reasons. History ~~confronts~~ has many great lessons for us to learn by past mistakes. Starts in the USA since the bible was removed from in 1963.

- 1) criminal arrest of teens up 150%
- 2) Teen suicides up age 15-19 age 450%
- 3) illegal drug activity up 6000%
- 4) Child abuse up 2300%
- 5) Divorce up 350%
- 6) SAT scores fell 10%
- 7) Violent crime has risen 350%

Basic sex ed that was 1st introduced in schools

- 1) increased promiscuity
- 2) premarital sex increased
- 3) unplanned pregnancy exploded

When right or wrong becomes relative to the individual, a natural consequence is to self approve immoral behavior.

prov 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of DEATH.

matt 18:16

But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

1 Sarah 5:20

Woe unto him that ~~calls~~ ^{calls} evil good & good evil. ~~Who~~ ^{Who} put darkness for light and light for darkness. Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

over

1 COR 6:9-10

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom?
Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers,
nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor
drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the
Kingdom of God.

HB 1032 Mattie Nelson (303) 439-9872

Hello, my name is Mathilde Nelson, I represent myself and thousands of concerned parents and families in opposing HB 19-1032.

As an immigrant and a new US citizen, this bill stands against everything I know our great country stands for.

This bill, if put into practice, will put a strain on already burdened teachers. We should remember that our state of Colorado already has a hard time retaining teachers and this is only going to increase the problem. It will also suppress his or her right of freedom of speech hindering his or her ability to teach in a way that suits the uniqueness of each individual child.

~~This bill robs children of their innocence, of their right to be happy & to live in a world where each person is cherished.~~

This bill takes away from our children their right to liberty & pursuit of happiness. Each child should be able to be taught about Love by a person he or she trusts and in a loving environment, upholding of the dignity of each human person and especially of the child. Each child is different, matures & learns at a different pace. No school is ready to take into

account the sensitivities, needs and ethnic & cultural uniqueness of each student. Therefore taking away their dignities as persons by forcing unto them something they might not be ready for.

This bill robs children of their innocence, of their right to be happy and to ~~to~~ live in a world where each person is cherished and taken care of with love. This is something that should be taught with love & care and not in a clinical and sterile environment.

Finally this bill robs us, parents, of our basic right to raise our children as we see fit.

Please oppose HB19-1032 and give the teachers, children & parents of Colorado a better chance to grow in a loving world where each person is valued and given her or his human dignity.

Colorado Legislature
House Health and Insurance Committee
Testimony *Against* House Bill 19-1032 “Concerning
Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education, And, In Connection
Therewith, Making An Appropriation.”

Jeff Johnston
Culture and Policy Analyst
Media and Communications Department
Focus on the Family
30 January 2019

Good afternoon Madam Chair and Members of the Committee.

My name is Jeff Johnston. I testify as a parent, with children attending a charter school in Colorado Springs.

I also testify on behalf of Focus on the Family, where I work as a Culture and Policy Analyst, representing tens of thousands of our Colorado constituents and millions more across the country.

We strongly oppose this legislation for a number of reasons. Here are just a few:

The U.S. Supreme Court has affirmed that parents have the right to oversee the custody, care and moral upbringing of their children. Parents don't give up this right when they send their kids to a public school. This bill takes teaching about sensitive moral, relational and sexual issues and places them under state control. In fact, the bill puts control of teaching “comprehensive sexual education” under the control of an unelected, appointed state oversight entity.

Unelected Colorado state entities have already demonstrated animosity toward people of faith and our views about marriage and sexuality. Given this history of animosity, you may understand why people of faith don't trust unelected, appointed state panels.

Which brings me to my second point: The Colorado State Constitution mandates that local school districts control instruction in their districts. This bill uses monetary grants to take away local control over the teaching of sexuality education and places it under state control. This is clearly unconstitutional overreach.

Third, the bill forces a specific sexual ideology on schools that teach comprehensive sexuality education. Representative Lontine has said that we can't teach religion in public schools. As far as I know, no one in Colorado is trying to make public schools teach religion. But this bill is trying to force schools to teach a secular ideology that has a specific moral viewpoint. This secular ideology is not morally neutral and it functions as a matter of faith for those who believe it – a religion, if you will. This bill is trying to inculcate students into specific moral beliefs and ideology: about sex – being male or female; about sexuality and about relationships.

Nor is this ideology rooted in science. There is no science showing a person can change sexes. But that is what children will be taught. There is no science showing "sexual orientation" exists as something inborn and unchangeable. But that is what our children will be taught. There is no science saying there are a multitude of genders. But that is what children will be taught. "Sexual orientation and gender identity" are not measurable, discrete scientific realities – they are modern social constructs.

Finally, the bill denigrates people with opposing viewpoints on these sensitive issues, stigmatizing their deeply held beliefs. Of course we want all children to be loved and respected. But adding language about "sexual orientation and gender identity" into educational law leads to assaults on free speech, religious freedom, people of faith and parental rights.

I urge you to vote against this legislation.

NICOLAS IVERSON - written testimony
(against)

A Denver Special Education Teacher's Perspective on HB 19-1032

I want to thank everyone here for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Nicolas Iverson. I am a special education teacher at a high school here in Denver. The kids I serve come from poor Latino families, many who are undocumented immigrants. You all probably understand that many of our families are very hesitant to speak up about anything right now, even in a city like Denver.

One of the great things about being involved in special education is the degree of contact I have with our parents. When I hold an IEP meeting or do a home visit, I get to see a much more vulnerable side to many of these students and families than the average school official.

One message I repeatedly hear from our parents is how overwhelmed they often feel in the educational process. As a result, many of the educational decisions are deferred to me as a teacher. This is why I am here today.

One of the main things I've noticed about so many of our families is their deep Catholic faith. When I visit the homes of my students, I see statues of Mary or angels in their gardens and crucifixes on their walls. First Communions are as important as quinceaneras. And to many of our families, the very topic of sex is completely sacred, and completely private.

I know many of you here may not necessarily share the same viewpoints as our families. And I don't believe that your intentions to snuff out their personal beliefs. You see this bill as a sensible, religiously neutral way to make sure all people are included in the discussions of sex education, including those from historically marginalized communities. And I applaud your intentions. But I ask all of you to carefully consider some of the wording contained in this bill that scare me as an educator.

When I see phrases like "implicitly religious", I see a green-light to eliminate any points of view that just happen to overlap with any religious teachings. The result is not in a curriculum that is religiously neutral, but a one-sided one that directly opposes the faiths of so many of our families.

The other aspect of the bill really worries me is the lax requirements for parental notification on deeply personal topics involving sexual orientation or gender identity. This lack of communication alienates our families even further.

Please don't go through with this bill as written. There are just too many landmines in the wording. Please don't make our parents compromise their family's faith for sake of their kids' education. And please don't force teachers like me to be the ones to have to do it.

Chairman and Committee Members:

My name is Dr. Jeannie Rhodes. I am a residency trained, board certified Emergency Medicine physician.

Thank you for allowing me to be here today, and for the opportunity to present my views.

I am here today to ask you to **vote no** on House Bill 1032.

1. HB 1032 is **unconstitutional**—prohibiting the right to free speech by prohibiting the teaching of religious or sectarian tenets, by prohibiting the teaching of abstinence as the primary or best practice, and by prohibiting the teaching/advocating of traditional gender norms
2. HB 1032 is attempting to **promote a lifestyle that is harmful to our youth**:
 - a. American Academy of Pediatrics, September 2018 research reports that abstinence is better than comprehensive sexual education: CSE programs in America's schools have not demonstrated long-term effectiveness at increasing sexual abstinence among adolescents, nor have they been shown to increase long-term condom and contraceptive use among sexually active youth. The American College of Pediatricians therefore recommends the adoption of sexual risk avoidance (SRA) programs by all school districts in lieu of curricula described as comprehensive sex education (CSE).
 - b. CDC stats on suicide among teens choosing a homosexual lifestyle:
 - i. More than 40 percent of lesbian, gay, and bisexual students have seriously considered suicide, and 29 percent reported having attempted suicide during the past 12 months.
 - ii. Lesbian, gay, and bisexual students are up to five times more likely than other students to report using illegal drugs.
 - c. CDC stats on AIDS and STDs among homosexual community vs heterosexual community: homosexuals more likely to contract AIDS or STD, including Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Syphilis (homosexuals accounted for 83% of secondary Syphilis), Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C and Human Papilloma Virus (some strains are precancerous)(homosexual males are 17 times more likely to develop anal cancer), versus heterosexuals

I believe HB 1032 is unconstitutional in its efforts to insure free speech only to those associated with the LGBTQ agenda, while inhibiting the freedom of speech

of the Christian and the moral public. Furthermore, by educating our children in a lifestyle that is proven to lead to destruction, HB 1032 is not only counterproductive to our society, it will also demoralize our next generations.

Thank you again Chairman and Committee Members for allowing me the opportunity to share my views with you today.

HB19-1032
Against this bill

Laura Felix

Per HB19-1032 as drafted,

1. "CULTURALLY SENSITIVE"
2. 16 INCLUDES RESOURCES, REFERENCES, AND INFORMATION THAT IS
3. 17 MEANINGFUL TO THE EXPERIENCES AND NEEDS OF COMMUNITIES OF
4. 18 COLOR; IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES; LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND
5. 19 TRANSGENDER COMMUNITIES; PEOPLE WITH PHYSICAL OR INTELLECTUAL
6. 20 AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES; PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED
7. 21 SEXUAL VICTIMIZATION; AND OTHERS WHOSE EXPERIENCES HAVE
8. 22 TRADITIONALLY BEEN LEFT OUT OF SEXUAL HEALTH EDUCATION,
9. 23 PROGRAMS, AND POLICIES.
- 10.
11. (2) Legislative declaration. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:
12. (a) ALL COLORADO YOUTH HAVE A RIGHT TO RECEIVE MEDICALLY ACCURATE INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR SEXUAL HEALTH IN ORDER TO EMPOWER THEM TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS THAT PROMOTE THEIR PHYSICAL, MENTAL, AND SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL WELL-BEING;
13. (b) THIS RIGHT APPLIES TO ALL YOUTH, REGARDLESS OF GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, ETHNIC OR RACIAL BACKGROUND, IMMIGRATION STATUS, FAMILY INCOME, PHYSICAL OR INTELLECTUAL ABILITY, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, SEX, GENDER, OR GENDER EXPRESSION;

Are Christians included in this? I'd like to amend this to include faith. As a Christian parent, I want to know that my child's rights to "cultural sensitivity," and "medically accurate information," are protected.

Funding:

Will the funds come from outside organizations with certain agendas? If so, will you accept funds from Planned Parenthood AND faith-based organizations equally? Would certain topics such as abortion be mandated for grant recipients if given by certain groups. This is what I do not want to see.

When our schools are in need of funding to attract and pay teachers adequately, to pay for transportation, etc. and are already under state mandates with more being considered such as full day kindergarten, will there be an increase from the state contribution to pay for these programs? From what would you take those funds?

Freedom of Speech:

It is our children's right under our Constitution to talk about faith. If we are guaranteeing cultural sensitivity for all, we must allow Christian students to express their needs and have their needs met. They must be included under the above statement. Just as lesbians, gay, bisexual, etc. must get their needs met, Christians must equally be allowed to share their views against abortion. What is good for one group is good for all.

Typed by Meredith F.
Age 12 1/29/2019

Meredith Felix

Good morning to the committee, my name is Meredith Felix and I am a student at Thunder Ridge Middle School. I want to start off by saying there is nothing wrong with having different opinions, viewpoints, and thoughts on one another. I also want to point out that there are multiple beliefs regarding this bill within the congregation of people sitting here, listening to what I have to say. I have skipped part of my school day today to read you this testimony, because I feel topics like this concern us children as well. It is a difficult matter when opinions can control not only you, but everyone around you, whether good or bad. Society as we know it has changed drastically due to the recent changes of sexuality and gender. As a student, there are many friends that I have back at school that are gay, lesbian, or are homosexual, but I love them all the same. It should not have to change who you are or how others perceive you as a human being. It should not be forced upon one another that we should be like them. As a child who has grown in a Christian household, we were raised to love the people around us, not only by faith, but by respect, however, that does not mean we always need to agree or follow them. It is one's choice in what to do with their lives. Even just at twelve, I have learned so much about this particular topic, and, I know you all might laugh at this, but life even at my age can be just as hard as the adults around me, and I am often pressured by other students about my faith, but I don't want that to change who I am inside. I feel there is nothing wrong with the pride that comes along with homosexuality, but consider the following. The founding fathers built the United States on free will, love, and justice. On every penny states the word "In God We Trust". Whether you are religious or not, it is something we always see, and a slogan we always remember. The Constitution itself has the words written in it that all citizens should have the freedom of religion, and speech. These phrases do not have the same effect on people today than with the past. We remember them, yet we often don't think of the meaning behind it. It is easy to respect the people around us, whether it is race, or ethnicity. I can't seem to notice the changes around me and wonder "what chance do we have that people will understand my point in view" and "why is Christianity, or, people like me so tested? Why don't students have a say in this as well as the people around me?" It is a tough world out there, no doubt, but, if we respect the people's decision of becoming transgender, lesbian, or gay, why can't Christianity be treated the same way? Back to the Constitution, we all have the freedom of religion, which almost falls under choice. We *choose* what we believe in, and we are taught to take it with passion, but if the congregation shuts it down, where is our freedom of speech? Where is our freedom of religion? As quoted by the cowardly lion in the Wizard of Oz "What have they got that I haven't got?" The answer to that is "our freedom". The freedom to love one another the way we did in the past. The way we take care of homeless and needy, the way we respect the veterans that shed blood for us in battle, but only to see what we have come to. As a fellow student, I want to be proud of who I am, but not just religiously, but also on a personal level, and share it with everyone the way homosexuals are able to do it with their fellow supporters. I may not be able to change much, but if the fathers of this country were to see us now, think about the freedom we Christians have lost. I believe everyone has a say in society, no matter what figure, citizen, or look, we all deserve the same credit. As a young citizen of this country, I would **not** like "Housebill 19-1032" to be passed. Thank you for your patience and attention.

Dear Members of the Assembly:

I am asking you to oppose HB 19-1032 for the following reasons:

1) Having read the bill, it contradicts the First Amendment of the Constitution as there are no conscience protection clauses for teachers who disagree with this sectarian gender ideology, whether for purely rational or also religious reasons. What will happen when a public-school teacher, who also holds religious values contrary to this gender ideology, refuses to teach it? Will they be fired?

2) The proposed bill is a contradiction as it forbids teaching sectarian tenets and then proposes sectarian gender ideology be taught. The belief that there are more than two genders is not on the level of acceptance as the periodic table or the Pythagorean theorem. Very respected psychologists and pediatricians believe that the proposed gender ideology is harmful. The American College of Pediatricians in 2017 stated:

“The American College of Pediatricians urges healthcare professionals, educators and legislators to reject all policies that condition children to accept as normal a life of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex. Facts – not ideology – determine reality.”

“Conditioning children into believing a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse. Endorsing gender discordance as normal via public education and legal policies will confuse children and parents, leading more children to present to “gender clinics” where they will be given puberty-blocking drugs. This, in turn, virtually ensures they will “choose” a lifetime of carcinogenic and otherwise toxic cross-sex hormones, and likely consider unnecessary surgical mutilation of their healthy body parts as young adults.”

https://www.acped.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/9.14.17-Gender-Ideology-Harms-Children_updated-MC.pdf

3) The proposed legislation is a violation of parental rights. Parents will not be notified when sectarian gender ideology will be taught to their children and have no ability to exempt them from it. This amounts to indoctrinating children against the beliefs of their parents, telling them there is nothing they can do about it except tell their kids they disagree with what is being taught or pull them out of public schools. Doesn't that sound a lot more like a totalitarian government than the America we know and love?

4) I do not have children, but I do pay taxes. Why should I have to pay for children to be taught gender ideology contrary to my morals...morals of mine based in both reason and religion? That is a violation of my First Amendment rights.

5) Finally, I wholeheartedly agree with teaching children respect and kindness in public schools. But that has been and can be accomplished without teaching controversial and sectarian gender ideology that divides parents from their children and further divides society. I didn't need a gender ideology class to teach respect. I learned to respect the dignity of others from my physics professor who somehow worked life lessons into discussions of science. I learned it from my coaches and my math professor. But most of all, I learned it from my parents...the ones who had the primary right and obligation to see to my education and formation.

Please opposed HB 19-1032. It contradicts the First Amendment, violates parental rights and will divide rather than unite. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Matthew Hartley
12600 W 60th Ave.
Arvada, CO 80004



Gender Ideology Harms Children

Updated September 2017

The American College of Pediatricians urges healthcare professionals, educators and legislators to reject all policies that condition children to accept as normal a life of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex. Facts – not ideology – determine reality.

1. Human sexuality is an objective biological binary trait: “XY” and “XX” are genetic markers of male and female, respectively – not genetic markers of a disorder. The norm for human design is to be conceived either male or female. Human sexuality is binary by design with the obvious purpose being the reproduction and flourishing of our species. This principle is self-evident. The exceedingly rare disorders of sex development (DSDs), including but not limited to testicular feminization and congenital adrenal hyperplasia, are all medically identifiable deviations from the sexual binary norm, and are rightly recognized as disorders of human design. Individuals with DSDs (also referred to as “intersex”) do not constitute a third sex.¹

2. No one is born with a gender. Everyone is born with a biological sex. Gender (an awareness and sense of oneself as male or female) is a sociological and psychological concept; not an objective biological one. No one is born with an awareness of themselves as male or female; this awareness develops over time and, like all developmental processes, may be derailed by a child’s subjective perceptions, relationships, and adverse experiences from infancy forward. People who identify as “feeling like the opposite sex” or “somewhere in between” do not comprise a third sex. They remain biological men or biological women.^{2,3,4}

3. A person’s belief that he or she is something they are not is, at best, a sign of confused thinking. When an otherwise healthy biological boy believes he is a girl, or an otherwise healthy biological girl believes she is a boy, an objective psychological problem exists that lies in the mind not the body, and it should be treated as such. These children suffer from gender dysphoria. Gender dysphoria (GD), formerly listed as Gender Identity Disorder (GID), is a recognized mental disorder in the most recent edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association (DSM-5).⁵ The psychodynamic and social learning theories of GD/GID have never been disproved.^{2,4,5}

4. Puberty is not a disease and puberty-blocking hormones can be dangerous. Reversible or not, puberty- blocking hormones induce a state of disease – the absence of puberty – and inhibit growth and fertility in a previously biologically healthy child.⁶

5. According to the DSM-5, as many as 98% of gender confused boys and 88% of gender confused girls eventually accept their biological sex after naturally passing through puberty.⁵

6. Pre-pubertal children diagnosed with gender dysphoria may be given puberty blockers as young as eleven, and will require cross-sex hormones in later adolescence to continue impersonating the opposite sex. These children will never be able to conceive any genetically related children even via artificial reproductive technology. In addition, cross-sex hormones (testosterone and estrogen) are associated with dangerous health risks including but not limited to cardiac disease, high blood pressure, blood clots, stroke, diabetes, and cancer.^{7,8,9,10,11}

7. Rates of suicide are nearly twenty times greater among adults who use cross-sex hormones and undergo sex reassignment surgery, even in Sweden which is among the most LGBTQ – affirming countries.¹² What compassionate and reasonable person would condemn young children to this fate

knowing that after puberty as many as 88% of girls and 98% of boys will eventually accept reality and achieve a state of mental and physical health?

8. Conditioning children into believing a lifetime of chemical and surgical impersonation of the opposite sex is normal and healthful is child abuse. Endorsing gender discordance as normal via public education and legal policies will confuse children and parents, leading more children to present to “gender clinics” where they will be given puberty-blocking drugs. This, in turn, virtually ensures they will “choose” a lifetime of carcinogenic and otherwise toxic cross-sex hormones, and likely consider unnecessary surgical mutilation of their healthy body parts as young adults.

Michelle A. Cretella, M.D.

President of the American College of Pediatricians

Quentin Van Meter, M.D.

Vice President of the American College of Pediatricians

Pediatric Endocrinologist

Paul McHugh, M.D.

University Distinguished Service Professor of Psychiatry at Johns Hopkins Medical School and the former psychiatrist in chief at Johns Hopkins Hospital

Originally published March 2016

Updated September 2017

CLARIFICATIONS in response to FAQs regarding points 3 & 5:

Regarding Point 3: “Where does the APA or DSM-5 indicate that Gender Dysphoria is a mental disorder?”

The APA (American Psychiatric Association) is the author of the [Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, 5th edition](#) (DSM-5). The APA states that those distressed and impaired by their GD meet the definition of a disorder. The College is unaware of any medical literature that documents a gender dysphoric child seeking puberty blocking hormones who is not significantly distressed by the thought of passing through the normal and healthful process of puberty.

From the [DSM-5 fact sheet](#):

“The critical element of gender dysphoria is the presence of clinically significant distress associated with the condition.”

“This condition causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning.”

Regarding Point 5: “Where does the DSM-5 list rates of resolution for Gender Dysphoria?”

On page 455 of the DSM-5 under “Gender Dysphoria without a disorder of sex development” it states: “Rates of persistence of gender dysphoria from childhood into adolescence or adulthood vary. In natal males, persistence has ranged from 2.2% to 30%. In natal females, persistence has ranged from 12% to 50%.” Simple math allows one to calculate that for natal boys: resolution occurs in **as many as** $100\% - 2.2\% = 97.8\%$ (approx. 98% of gender-confused boys). Similarly, for natal girls: resolution occurs in **as many as** $100\% - 12\% = 88\%$ gender-confused girls.

The bottom line is this: Our opponents advocate a new scientifically baseless standard of care for children with a psychological condition (GD) that would otherwise resolve after puberty for the vast majority of patients concerned. Specifically, they advise: affirmation of children’s thoughts which are contrary to physical reality; the chemical castration of these children prior to puberty with GnRH agonists

(puberty blockers which cause infertility, stunted growth, low bone density, and an unknown impact upon their brain development), and, finally, the permanent sterilization of these children prior to age 18 via cross-sex hormones. There is an obvious self-fulfilling nature to encouraging young GD children to impersonate the opposite sex and then institute pubertal suppression. If a boy who questions whether or not he is a boy (who is meant to grow into a man) is treated as a girl, then has his natural pubertal progression to manhood suppressed, have we not set in motion an inevitable outcome? All of his same sex peers develop into young men, his opposite sex friends develop into young women, but he remains a pre-pubertal boy. He will be left psychosocially isolated and alone. He will be left with the psychological impression that something is wrong. He will be less able to identify with his same sex peers and being male, and thus be more likely to self-identify as “non-male” or female. Moreover, neuroscience reveals that the pre-frontal cortex of the brain which is responsible for judgment and risk assessment is not mature until the mid-twenties. Never has it been more scientifically clear that children and adolescents are incapable of making informed decisions regarding permanent, irreversible and life-altering medical interventions. For this reason, the College maintains it is abusive to promote this ideology, first and foremost for the well-being of the gender dysphoric children themselves, and secondly, for all of their non-gender-discordant peers, many of whom will subsequently question their own gender identity, and face violations of their right to bodily privacy and safety.

For more information, please visit [this page](#) on the College website concerning sexuality and gender issues.

References:

1. Consortium on the Management of Disorders of Sex Development, “Clinical Guidelines for the Management of Disorders of Sex Development in Childhood.” Intersex Society of North America, March 25, 2006. Accessed 3/20/16 from <http://www.dsdguidelines.org/files/clinical.pdf>.
2. Zucker, Kenneth J. and Bradley Susan J. “Gender Identity and Psychosexual Disorders.” *FOCUS: The Journal of Lifelong Learning in Psychiatry*. Vol. III, No. 4, Fall 2005 (598-617).
3. Whitehead, Neil W. “Is Transsexuality biologically determined?” *Triple Helix* (UK), Autumn 2000, p6-8. accessed 3/20/16 from <http://www.mygenes.co.nz/transsexuality.htm>; see also Whitehead, Neil W. “Twin Studies of Transsexuals [Reveals Discordance]” accessed 3/20/16 from http://www.mygenes.co.nz/transs_stats.htm.
4. Jeffreys, Sheila. Gender Hurts: A Feminist Analysis of the Politics of Transgenderism. Routledge, New York, 2014 (pp.1-35).
5. American Psychiatric Association: Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, Arlington, VA, American Psychiatric Association, 2013 (451-459). See page 455 re: rates of persistence of gender dysphoria.
6. Hembree, WC, et al. Endocrine treatment of transsexual persons: an Endocrine Society clinical practice guideline. *J Clin Endocrinol Metab*. 2009;94:3132-3154.
7. Olson-Kennedy, J and Forcier, M. “Overview of the management of gender nonconformity in children and adolescents.” UpToDate November 4, 2015. Accessed 3.20.16 from www.uptodate.com.
8. Moore, E., Wisniewski, & Dobs, A. “Endocrine treatment of transsexual people: A review of treatment regimens, outcomes, and adverse effects.” *The Journal of Endocrinology & Metabolism*, 2003; 88(9), pp3467-3473.
9. FDA Drug Safety Communication issued for Testosterone products accessed 3.20.16: <http://www.fda.gov/Drugs/DrugSafety/PostmarketDrugSafetyInformationforPatientsandProviders/ucm161874.htm>.
10. World Health Organization Classification of Estrogen as a Class I Carcinogen: http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/topics/ageing/cocs_hrt_statement.pdf.

11. Eyer AE, Pang SC, Clark A. LGBT assisted reproduction: current practice and future possibilities. *LGBT Health* 2014;1(3):151-156.

12. Dhejne, C, et.al. "Long-Term Follow-Up of Transsexual Persons Undergoing Sex Reassignment Surgery: Cohort Study in Sweden." *PLoS ONE*, 2011; 6(2). Affiliation: Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Division of Psychiatry, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden. Accessed 3.20.16 from <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0016885>.