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CPC Policy Backgrounder Answering Objections to SB 150: Parental Rights in Education Act (2023)

SB 150 would protect the consciences of teachers and require public schools to inform parents of any material covering gender or sexuality being taught to their children. There are many objections to this bill and here are some answers to those objections.

Claim 1: “This is another Don’t Say Gay Bill.”

Just like the bill in Florida, the word “gay” doesn’t appear anywhere in this bill. The bill says school personnel shall not be prohibited from “discussing human sexuality” or answering questions about human sexuality as long as it complies with the approved curriculum. The purpose of this bill is to protect the right of parents to decide what’s being taught to their children, not ban the word “gay.”

Claim 2: This is legalized bullying because it will misgender LGBTQ youth.

The issue with this objection is the vagueness of the word “bullying.” According to the Cambridge dictionary, a bully is someone who hurts or frightens someone else usually to get them to do something they don’t want to do.¹ This bill doesn’t force LGBTQ youth to do anything. It instead, protects teachers from being forced to violate their consciences, protects parents from being forced into ignorance about their child’s sexuality and gender identity, and protects children from being forced into complying with transgender ideology. According to this definition then, those advocating for parents, children, and teachers to be forced into compliance are the bullies.

Claim 3: This legislation will marginalize LGBTQ youth.

SB 150 does not marginalize LGBTQ youth. Nothing in this bill specifically bans discussing LGBTQ topics or significant LGBTQ figures. Instead, it prevents teachers and parents who disagree with LGBTQ ideology from being marginalized. And it preserves the rights of parents to raise their children in accordance with their values.

Claim 4: SB 150 is politicizing an issue that is killing children.

State Senator Karen Berg made this objection on the Senate floor, “I am going to make an open plea to the members of this body that we avoid politicizing issues that are literally killing our children.”² This issue is political by nature because it is dealing with how public schools should maintain parental rights with students who identify as transgender. Second, there is no evidence that this issue or its politicization is leading to children with gender dysphoria committing

suicide. States allowing gender transition and preferred pronoun usage have higher rates of suicide among transgendered children than states with more restrictive laws.³ According to one study, transgendered people that received hormone therapy and transition surgeries still have significantly higher rates of suicide.⁴ Clearly, there are deeper issues that are leading to suicide.

Claim 5: Using a child’s gendered preferred pronoun is the best way to affirm them.

Senator Berg also objected, “What this bill does is it takes the single most important thing that can be done to improve a child’s health and well being and makes it entirely optional.”⁵ Her claim is unfounded. According to the CDC, one of the most important things for child development is “Having a safe and loving home and spending time with family...”,⁶ along with proper nutrition, exercise, and sleep.⁷

Claim 6: There are no religious or ideological conflicts with children being trans.

Senator Berg also made this objection claiming, “There are no religious or ideological conflicts with children being trans.”⁸ Deuteronomy 22:5 explicitly condemns cross-dressing, calling it an abomination. Genesis 1:26-28 also says that God created humanity male and female. Orthodox Jews and Christians cannot affirm that children have a right to transcend their biological sex. As for ideological conflicts, there are numerous groups ideologically opposed to transgender ideology. Do No Harm, a group of medical professionals ideologically opposed to “gender-affirming” care, believe it’s a violation of the Hippocratic Oath.⁹

¹ <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/bullying>

² https://www.rockdaleneatoncitizen.com/news/world_nation/literally-killing-our-children-kentucky-state-senator-begs-colleagues-to-stop-targeting-trans-kids/article_9cc75faa-a245-5a4c-871d-86fe365bc694.html

³ <https://www.heritage.org/gender/report/puberty-blockers-cross-sex-hormones-and-youth-suicide>.

⁴ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3043071/>

⁵ <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/kentucky-senate-lets-teachers-decide-transgender-pronouns-97272534>

⁶ <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/facts.html#:~:text=Having%20a%20safe%20and%20loving,can%20make%20a%20big%20difference>

⁷ <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/childdevelopment/facts.html#:~:text=Having%20a%20safe%20and%20loving,can%20make%20a%20big%20difference>

⁸ <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/kentucky-senate-lets-teachers-decide-transgender-pronouns-97272534>

⁹ <https://donoharmmedicine.org/gender-ideology/>