



Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill No. 2244

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. While I firmly believe in the importance of parental involvement in education, this bill overreaches in ways that could negatively impact our schools, students, and educators. I am a loving mother of two beautiful girls and I STILL feel this way! Last session, the House killed almost the exact same version of this bill.

1. Unintended Consequences for School Operations

This bill imposes significant restrictions and administrative burdens on schools, including excessive requirements for parental notification and consent. While transparency is important, some of the provisions could:

- Create **logistical difficulties** for teachers and administrators.
- Slow down the **educational process** by requiring advanced written consent for routine discussions and activities.
- Reduce **flexibility for students** to explore academic and extracurricular interests independently.

2. Chilling Effect on Educators and Students

The language in this bill creates an atmosphere of **fear and uncertainty** among educators, potentially discouraging them from fostering open discussions or providing supportive environments for students. The broad restrictions could:

- **Limit classroom discussions** on important topics related to diversity, inclusion, and mental health.
- Place teachers at risk of **legal action** for perceived violations of vaguely defined policies.
- Prevent students from feeling **safe and supported** in their learning environment.

3. Unnecessary and Redundant Provisions

Many of the rights outlined in this bill are already **protected under existing laws and policies**. Parents already have access to their child's educational records, can choose their child's mode of schooling, and can communicate directly with teachers and administrators. This bill adds **unnecessary legal redundancies** that could:

- Strain school resources and staff time.
- Divert attention from core educational priorities.
- Lead to potential legal battles that remove funds from classrooms.

4. Risks of Increased Political and Legal Challenges



The bill's provision allowing parents to **take legal action** against school districts for perceived violations opens the door to **frequent and costly litigation**. Instead of supporting collaboration between parents and schools, it may:

- **Encourage adversarial relationships** between educators and families.
- Result in **escalating legal costs** that could be better spent on student services and educational programs.
- Make it **difficult for schools to function effectively**, as policies will be dictated by legal fears rather than best educational practices.

Conclusion

While parental involvement in education is essential, **Engrossed Senate Bill No. 2244** presents an approach that is overly restrictive, redundant, and likely to create unintended negative consequences for schools, teachers, and students. I urge you to consider the potential harm this bill may cause and to vote **against** its passage.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am happy to answer any questions the committee may have.