



Support Parental Rights - Support HB 1009

Dear Delegate:

February 7, 2022

On behalf of Pro-Family Women, we strongly support, and encourage you to vote for, HB 1009, sponsored by Del. Tara Durant (R-28). The bill protects the right of parents to know *beforehand* when their child may be exposed to sexually explicit instructional materials at school. Students' exposure to sexually explicit materials at school is increasingly becoming a problem for parents. HB 1009 ensures that at the very least, parents have an avenue to protect their right to ensure that their own child is not exposed to sexually explicit content.

The bill instructs the Board of Education to develop a policy that requires public schools to notify a student's parent if instructional material depicts sexually explicit content. The parent may then review the material, and the school must offer alternative material. All school boards will be required to comply with the Board of Education's policy.

There is no requirement in the bill for any school to remove a book. Rather, it is merely about providing a parent with notification and the opportunity to have their child read alternative material. Virginia's Code states that "a parent has a fundamental right to make decisions concerning the upbringing, education, and care of the parent's child." (Va. Code § 1-240.1). The primary role of a parent regarding the upbringing of their child must especially be protected when the personal issue of human sexuality is involved.

Many parents work hard to instill in their children purity of mind and body. Parents are constantly monitoring what their child is looking at on the computer, on their cell phone, and on television, as well as monitoring which recreational books the child wants to read. Why should parents, who take such care to make sure that their child reads wholesome material at home, be left to find out after the fact that their child has been exposed to sexually explicit content -- at school of all places!

If Virginia's public schools are going to regain the trust of parents, there must be more transparency on the part of schools. Parents are tired of being kept in the dark. Please support parental rights. Please support transparency. Please vote for HB 1009.

Sincerely,

Susan T. Muskett, J.D., President