

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education
For HB 4520

Compiled on: Friday, April 21, 2023 12:27 AM

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Hearing Date: April 20, 2023 8:00 AM

Mary Selby
self
Austin, TX

I am in opposition of HB4520. Please trust our teachers and not allow for targeting certain education staff simply because you disagree with them.

Mary McCleary
self. Regents Professor Emeritus, Stephen F.Austin State University
Nacogdoches, TX

It's beyond time to get serious in eliminating the harmful pornographic materials found in school libraries all over Texas. These books will make our kids ticking time-bombs from the harm they will do. We cannot trust our librarians, teachers, and school administrators to eliminate them so it is up to you in Austin to help our kids and the parents who was to protect them.

Marisa Williams
self, SAHM
McKinney, TX

My family supports HB 4520. As a faithful homeschool family we consider Phillipians 4:8, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" when we select our academic materials. I retired from public teaching over ten years ago. This wasn't even a topic of conversation then because teachers knew that the best way to educate children was to make sure we protected them from harmful material. We are grateful to Rep Harris and Rep Cody for this return to truth, honor and excellence. Please vote favorably on HB 4520.

Thank you.

John Murray, Mr.

self retired

Austin, TX

I Strongly suggest that this bill add verbiage to set protections for all school employees via mandatory uniform training. This will help protect employees from getting into trouble in the first place.

Specifically, my colleagues and I desire to encourage the Lege to put real teeth in preventing grooming in Texas primary and middle schools.

THE PROBLEM: What is being done inside the schools would be patently illegal if it was done 100 yds outside the school boundaries. To arrive at this conclusion,

First, we had to establish a definition for grooming. There is a definition of grooming at

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-sexual-grooming/> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Child_grooming .

Also check out the Austin Diocese video <https://www.austindiocese.org/a-familys-response-to-sexual-abuse> that suggests ANY discussion about sex between an adult (except with the child's parents) and a child is grooming. The definition of grooming starts 2 min into the video.

Second, we have had multiple reports of teachers telling their elementary and middle school students that they have the right to declare their sexual identity and to be called by the pronoun of their choice. The resulting gender dysphoria has been a serious problem. We think that the SEL school curriculum has been hijacked by the left. Also see

<https://www.kxan.com/news/education/educators-publish-open-letter-to-round-rock-isd-asking-for-lgbtq-training/> showing that teachers want to know how best to deal with this issue. Parents have first responsibility here; not school employees.

Third, School Choice is great, but 90% of our kids would stay in the public school system and would remain unprotected. All children need to be protected against grooming in their respective school systems.

OUR PROPOSAL:

Specifically, we want to take back the SEL school curriculum and encourage the Lege to hold all school system employees accountable by establishing laws and rules of engagement with serious penalties against all forms of grooming and the sexual abuse of minors. Fortunately, there are lots of organizations that have successful programs already in place that our legislatures can use as a template. We need to get something passed into law similar to the DFPS, CASA, BSA YPT, and catholic EIM programs. We think that the BSA's Youth Protection Training (YPT) program would be a good template for the Lege to use. We would be willing to help craft the text specifically for a school program. YPT has been successful in teaching people to spot and are empowered to report inappropriate and unsafe grooming behavior.

EVE MARGOLIS

self

Austin, TX

Oppose bill 4520. This bill is a doorway to punishing teachers for teaching health, language arts, science and history with appropriate and high quality materials that may be censored by other bills.

Terry Kosobud

Retired

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 4520. This is another attempt to harm students and ban books.

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Debra Carter

Bastrop County Conservatives

Cedar Creek, TX

I support this bill. Rep Harris THANK YOU for all your hard work.

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Jennifer McHam

Self

Celina, TX

There should absolutely be consequences of the strictest order for teachers and staff that do this.