

**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**  
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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.

It's not local control if the state tells schools what to teach and direct what must be in the curricula.

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.