SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 166

Senator Shirkey offered the following resolution:

A resolution to condemn the Michigan Department of Education’s teacher training videos on student gender orientation and reaffirm the fundamental right of parents to direct the education of their children.

Whereas, The fundamental right of parents over the upbringing of their children has been unequivocally established in the United States. Parents are in the best position to know their children’s needs and circumstances, and therefore should maintain authority over all information and decisions that could impact the health and well-being of their children; and

Whereas, Portions of the Michigan Department of Education’s LGBTQ teacher training videos suggest not telling parents their child’s gender orientation, sexual orientation, or pronouns. These
videos train teachers that they do not have to disclose a child’s
gender or sexual orientation even if it is contributing to the
child’s suicidal thoughts. This not only puts a child’s life at
risk, but it also denies parents their fundamental right to protect
the health and safety of their children. Further, this is an all-
out affront to our constitution that clearly establishes that
parental rights are sacred and secured. The offensive nature of
these videos clearly represents the out of touch perspective of the
Michigan Department of Education and this Administration who
routinely demonstrate their disdain for parents and parents’
rights; and

Whereas, Parents’ fundamental right to direct the care,
teaching, and education of their children is infringed upon when
school districts do not have total transparency and do not defer to
parents regarding their children’s gender identity, sexual
orientation, preferred pronouns, or any other issue related to
their child’s gender identity known to the school. Parents have the
right to direct any discussion regarding these topics with their
children. Michigan’s public schools should not promote exploration
of gender identity, gender fluidity, or sexual orientation without
parental consent. These topics are highly sensitive and, at the
very least, require active involvement of parents who are the
primary principals in their children’s development; now, therefore,
be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we condemn the Michigan
Department of Education’s teacher training videos on student gender
orientation and reaffirm the fundamental right of parents to direct
the education of their children; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the
1 Governor of Michigan, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the State Board of Education.