




P.O. Box 335
Wakefield, RI 02880
(401) 400-0061

info@thewomxnproject.org
www.thewomxnproject.org

 @TheWomanProjectHQ
 @WomxnProjectHQ
 @thewomxnprojecthq

Testimony from Jocelyn Foye, Executive Director of The Womxn Project, in opposition to H7781, the Parents Bill of Rights

The Womxn Project is a 501c4 and works toward reproductive justice, bodily autonomy, and freedom in Rhode Island. The movement we stand behind is based on creating a culture that embraces the human dignity of all people living in Rhode Island and beyond.

The Parents Bill of Rights Act would allow parents to direct the education of their children while at school. It also disallows schools from withholding health information about a minor child from their parents.

Depending on its interpretation, this bill could result in curriculum censorship because it is designed to allow an individual parent to dictate what is taught in Rhode Island schools. Although it might seem benign, legislation like this often is used to allow parents to ban discussions of gender and sexuality at school. This cuts off an important avenue of education for young people exploring their gender and/or sexuality. If they don't have these important discussions at home and don't have access to this type of education at school, it could leave them without adult guidance.

The bill further requires schools not to withhold health information about a minor child from their parents. The interpretation of legislation like this also tends to target students exploring their gender and sexuality. A student might find school to be a supportive environment for them to be their most authentic selves. This bill would essentially require schools to out a student to their parents, no matter if they have a supportive or unsupportive home environment. This creates a dangerous situation for kids during a vulnerable time in their lives and could discourage them from showing up authentically in front of their teachers and friends at school.

I urge you not to allow the parents bill of rights act to move forward.

Sincerely,
Jocelyn Foye
Executive Director, The Womxn Project
Wakefield, RI 02880