

Joint Education Committee Hearing

Testimony of Rev. Abraham Hernandez – NATIONAL HISPANIC CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE CT.

In opposition of H.B.6619: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A KINDERGARTEN TO EIGHT GRADE MODEL CURRICULUMS

March 17, 2021

Distinguished members of the joint Education Committee

I, Rev. Abraham Hernandez, serve as the Executive Chapter Director of Connecticut's Chapter of the NHCLC (National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference).

We, the undersigned Hispanic Faith leaders, that represent over 300 Hispanic Evangelical churches in the state of Connecticut want you to know that we vehemently oppose HB-6619 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A KINDERGARTEN TO EIGHT GRADE MODEL CURRICULUMS.

We are writing to you to oppose the subject matter prescribed in said section 10-16b, that intends to aggregate to our public schools curriculum section (D) which seeks to introduce lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and other sexual orientations and gender identities studies, that do not present facts that are medically accurate, evidenced based, and age appropriate.

As faith leaders representing a diverse community, we are committed to safeguarding the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the youth in our city, especially for our most vulnerable students. Therefore, we believe youth should be given access to curriculum that has been proven to produce the best outcomes for them. We also believe that the curriculum chosen should acknowledge and support the role of parents as the primary educators of their children on this very personal subject.

It has come to our attention that the curricula being reviewed are intertwined with sexuality in its education. As leaders in the faith community of the state of CT, we are opposed to any such curriculum being taught in our school system. The facts show that such curricula do not meet the standards we share with the state regarding age appropriate, medically accurate, and evidenced based.

This curriculum will promote unscientific "gender transition" theories which are harmful to still developing teens. For some, it can set them on a path to using experimental chemical treatments and choosing elective surgical procedures to remove healthy body parts. Puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones carry significant and lasting negative health effects, such as, loss of fertility,

bone loss, mood disorders, seizures, cognitive impairment, increased risk of heart attacks, strokes, diabetes, blood clots, and cancers. Such a sensitive topic should not be taught in our schools but should be addressed at home with parents and within students' individual faith communities.

Finally, we are quite concerned about the arbitrary standard of age-appropriateness when it comes to content included in the curricula. How will school officials or teachers determine what is acceptable?

There is evidence that these kinds of lessons are sexually exploitive in nature. Many parents may find these lessons objectionable and not at all age appropriate. It is for these reasons that we are addressing the CT General Assembly's Education committee to discuss our concerns. In the meantime, we will continue to educate our congregations on this matter.

As you can see from the signers, our growing group of Ecclesiastical Bishops and overseers represents a vast and diverse faith demographic of communities from throughout our state, because we are cognizant that many of our children attend Connecticut Public Schools. To protect our children's well-being, we will continue to be vigilant. We ask that you VOTE NO on HB-6619

NHCLC CT. CHAPTER:

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NHCLC CT Executive Director

Dr. Moses Mercedes
NHCLC CT. VP

Rev. Víctor Gómez
NHCLC CT Prophetic Activism

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