



William B. May
Chairman
Catholics for the Common Good
P.O. Box 320038
San Francisco, CA 94132
(415) 651-4171
(415) 738-0421 Fax
chairmancgg@cftcg.org

June 22, 2007

The Honorable Sheila Kuehl
California Senate
State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Senator Kuehl,

I am writing to respectfully express opposition to SB777. While the expressed intent of SB 777 is to reduce discrimination in schools, a meritorious objective, it has serious flaws, which must be considered.

Wide Latitude For Interpretation Opens The Door For Unintended Consequences.

This bill leaves wide latitude for interpretation of what speech, behavior or activities would be seen to “reflect or promote a discriminatory bias against” homosexual, bisexual or transgender people. It would likely extend to speech that relates to differing views on the role of marriage and the family in society, motherhood and fatherhood, and human sexuality.

SB 777 would create numerous unintended consequences including new forms of bigotry and discrimination, reduced parental confidence in public education, and chaos as schools struggle to deal with students seeking undefined accommodations for various gender preferences.

Unintended Consequences Are Numerous

1. **New forms of bigotry and discrimination:** Under SB 777, children who hold a different understanding of marriage, family, the complementarity of the sexes, and sexual ethics based on rational thought (sometimes informed by their faith) would likely become subject to criticism and discrimination by teachers and to bullying or discrimination by their peers. Parents would likely be subjected to ridicule, discrimination, and social ostracism for having a different understanding regarding these subjects. Dissent from public policy initiatives by homosexual interest groups would likely be banned since it could be seen as promoting bias against this protected class.
2. **Interference with parental rights on education / turning children against parents:** SB 777 would effectively create a state sponsored belief or value system (tantamount to a religion) regarding the understanding of the human person, the family and the very foundations of society. This belief system is in direct conflict with the tenets and beliefs widely held by members of established religions. As a result, SB 777 would create a conflict between the state and the rights and responsibilities of parents for the education and welfare of their children. In addition, biased instruction based on the state supported belief system mandated by this bill would instill a certain form of bigotry in children, which would have the effect of turning them against their parents.
3. **Driving children away from public schools:** As a result of the consequences listed in points 1 and 2 above, many parents will lose confidence in public schools, compelling them to seek alternatives that do not interfere with their parental authority. This will lower ADA rates and reduce funding for individual public schools.

- 4. Potential for gender identity chaos:** SB 777 takes a section of the penal code that was intended for a different purpose and links it to the education code in a way that would eliminate the definition of “sex” as a biological reality and replaces it with the concept of gender preference of the individual student. This would open the door for mischief and chaos as students make demands on the school for individual accommodations related to such things as bathrooms, locker rooms, and school activities. Schools would be forced to divert funds from the classroom to implement accommodations. School boards would have to spend additional time to this to make sure they do everything possible to avoid lawsuits from disgruntled students based on this change.

SB 777 introduces many new and radical concepts that have far ranging consequences for California society, and its universities and schools. Please consider these concerns. We strongly believe SB 777 is bad public policy for California and should be defeated.

For the Common Good,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill May', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

William B. May
Chairman

cc: Assembly Judiciary Committee