

Oppose SB 777 – The Discrimination & Anti-Family Bill

On the surface, SB 777 merely prohibits any instruction, school activities, or instructional material that would “promote a discriminatory bias” against homosexual, transgender, or bisexual persons.

This might sound innocuous, until consideration is given to what homosexual, transgender, and bisexual interest groups perceive as discriminatory and biased: marriage between a man and a woman; marriage with a mother and father as the foundation of the family – the first unit of society; the complementarity of men and women; views on human sexuality and sexual ethics that differ from their own. The bill also deletes “sex” as a biological fact and replaces it with “gender identity” which would be left to the preference of the student.

TALKING POINTS

SB 777 leaves wide latitude for interpretation of what speech, behavior, and activities would be seen to “promote a discriminatory bias” against homosexual, bisexual, or transgender people. The bill is flawed because of the many serious negative consequences for students, parents, and society.

SB 777 would:

1. Promote new forms of bigotry and discrimination at schools against children and parents who hold differing rational views on human sexuality, marriage, and the family.
2. Create chaos and confusion, as schools struggle to deal with accommodations for varying gender preferences, diverting time and financial resources from the classroom.
3. Lead to lawsuits and censoring of books. The language of SB 777 is so vague that the threat of lawsuits under this bill would force school boards and teachers to present only one point of view and could even lead to the censoring of books in school libraries.
4. Interfere with parental rights and turn children against their parents. A conflict would be created between the state and the rights and responsibilities of parents as primary educators. Parents have an obligation to instill in their children the rational values that they understand will contribute to their children's flourishing. Presenting the parents' beliefs on marriage and sexuality as discriminatory and bigoted will also have the effect of turning children against their parents and undermining parental authority.

About the Talking Points

These Talking Points are based on principles of Catholic social teachings and designed for a rational and effective public policy debate.

We have intentionally refrained from comments on sexual morality and homosexual behavior that could stigmatize people who experience same-sex attraction.

Individual sexual behavior is not the issue that threatens freedom for religious expression, marriage, the family, and the future of our children and grandchildren.

The threat is caused by the ongoing effort to co-opt the power of the state to promote a radical minority view and stifle rational dissent.

To focus arguments on homosexual behavior would be nothing but a distraction, and could also be interpreted by the media and the public as intolerant and promoting discrimination.

We understand that each person, as a manifestation of God's love destined for eternal life, has an intrinsic dignity that cannot be diminished by anything. Therefore, as followers of Christ, we are always called to respect and defend the dignity of the other - saint or sinner, friend or foe.

