

By: Representatives Bryant, Lundstrum

HOUSE RESOLUTION

TO URGE THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, THE POLITICAL
SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS, PUBLICLY
FUNDED AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS, AND THEIR EMPLOYEES
TO PROTECT THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN BY KEEPING THIS
PROMISE TO ARKANSAS'S CHILDREN.

Subtitle

TO PROTECT THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN BY
KEEPING THIS PROMISE TO ARKANSAS'S
CHILDREN.

WHEREAS, children have become increasingly targeted at younger ages for adults' sexual messages, images, and themes; and

WHEREAS, cultural forces, including social media and entertainment, and government-sponsored initiatives at the federal, state, and local levels expose children to explicit, sexual content; and

WHEREAS, international and domestic activities infuse public school curricula with graphic information about sex and abortion, and with political ideologies or policies concerning sexual orientation and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation could override efforts of concerned parents and community members at the local level; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation may penalize Americans, including parents, who disagree with these ideologies and policies; and



WHEREAS, children are constantly learning and are particularly influenced by the trusted adults in their lives; and

WHEREAS, children's minds are treasures to nurture and help grow; and

WHEREAS, what children learn can determine their success or failure, their ability to properly assess risk, and their vulnerability to exploitation; and

WHEREAS, children's bodies should be honored, protected, and given the chance to develop naturally; and

WHEREAS, children's privacy and physical safety should not be sacrificed for the sake of political ideology or policy; and

WHEREAS, adults responsible for children are charged with protecting and caring for their bodies; and

WHEREAS, the safest place for a child is with his or her loving and involved parents; and

WHEREAS, political or ideological efforts to drive wedges between children and parents are not healthy; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves protection from use in or exposure to pornography and graphic sexual content or activities, including in media and on the internet; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves an education suited for his or her specific needs and development as guided by his or her parents, including one free of graphic sexual curricula or content, the promotion of abortion, and politicized ideas about sexual orientation and gender identity; and

WHEREAS, to protect this right, all public school sexual education programs should be opt-in, and voluntarily chosen by parents; and

WHEREAS, a general opt-out should be provided for other sensitive topics families do not believe appropriate for their children; and

WHEREAS, parents should have the right to review all curricula, reading material, teacher's guides, and computer programs or applications; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves the right to free speech, to either speak or not speak, and to affirm or not affirm messages or ideas that violate his or her beliefs or conscience; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves safety and privacy in sex-specific spaces, including locker rooms, showers, and restrooms at schools and other publicly funded facilities; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves the opportunity to participate in fair and safe athletic competitions, and female athletes should not be forced to compete against biological males in sports competitions intended for biological females; and

WHEREAS, every child deserves the opportunity to be affirmed in his or her genetically determined sex, and to receive support throughout puberty and other natural adolescent changes that shape physical maturity and reproductive capacity; and

WHEREAS, gender reassignment medical treatments, including puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and sterilizing surgeries, are neither natural nor healthy, and should not be permitted for minors; and

WHEREAS, each child deserves to have his or her parents informed of and involved in important life decisions; and

WHEREAS, authority figures, including teachers, counselors, or medical professionals, should not withhold information about a child's sexual activity, development, or identity from parents, nor take any action undermining the parents' role in guiding the child in these areas, nor should

authority figures encourage or coerce a child to withhold information about important life decisions from the parent; and

WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas should to the fullest extent possible under the law resist every attempt or mandate by the federal government to force anyone in Arkansas to violate the principles set forth in this resolution,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives urge the State of Arkansas, all state agencies, the political subdivisions of the State of Arkansas, publicly funded agencies, public schools and open enrollment charter schools, organizations, and their employees, to protect the welfare of every child in Arkansas as guided by this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives adopt this resolution as a promise to Arkansas's children to protect the welfare of every child and directs that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the administrative head of each state agency, including the secretary of each cabinet-level department, to be shared with all employees under his or her leadership.