



February 14, 2022

Members of the Education Finance and Policy Committee
Minnesota State Senate
Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Re: SUPPORT SF 2909

Dear Members,

Minnesota Family Council represents tens of thousands of families across the state, and we **urge you to support SF 2909**. As the leading caretakers of their children, parents have authority to direct education, upbringing, and care. The Minnesota legislature must recognize the fundamental right of parents to direct the training and well-being of their minor child.

Parents are the ultimate authority in their child's education. They are the best equipped to understand their child's unique familial, emotional, and developmental context. When parents are intentionally excluded from the decisions being made about their child's curriculum and health, they are alienated from the child. Transparency and information sharing regarding a child's education preserves a parent's right to know and fosters parent-teacher partnerships. As we have seen, policies that conflict with parental rights will only continue to invite liability as evidenced by increased legal challenges in states across the country.

In Minnesota, parents have been shocked to discover that their child is taught to question her gender identity and sexual identity. They are appalled when she is exposed to topics like "institutionalized racism" at a young age, and before they have introduced these sensitive topics. Schoolteachers have claimed authority to direct her opinions in these areas, and some intentionally withhold parents from the knowledge of curriculum that has significant impacts on her worldview – and sometimes conflicts with their family's religious or cultural understanding.

Parents' direction of their minor child does not end when she is dropped off at school for the day. Schools are accountable to parents to provide transparency and accountability in all areas of the child's education, health, and well-being. Rather than providing parents with access to curriculum and student records, some schools have allowed students to change their gender identity and sexual orientation without the parent's knowledge – even encouraging this behavior intentionally without parental involvement. Children deserve better than confusion by teachers and school officials who try to indoctrinate students without parental knowledge.

This bill recognizes the preexisting right of parents to full authority and supervision of their child's educational experience. We urge Senate Education committee members to support SF 2909 to protect young children by codifying the essential rights of parents to direct their child's education.

Sincerely,
Veronica Missling
Director of Public Policy