

SENATE RESOLUTION NO.166

Senator Shirkey offered the following resolution:

1 A resolution to condemn the Michigan Department of Education's
2 teacher training videos on student gender orientation and reaffirm
3 the fundamental right of parents to direct the education of their
4 children.

5 Whereas, The fundamental right of parents over the upbringing
6 of their children has been unequivocally established in the United
7 States. Parents are in the best position to know their children's
8 needs and circumstances, and therefore should maintain authority
9 over all information and decisions that could impact the health and
10 well-being of their children; and

11 Whereas, Portions of the Michigan Department of Education's
12 LGBTQ teacher training videos suggest not telling parents their
13 child's gender orientation, sexual orientation, or pronouns. These

1 videos train teachers that they do not have to disclose a child's
2 gender or sexual orientation even if it is contributing to the
3 child's suicidal thoughts. This not only puts a child's life at
4 risk, but it also denies parents their fundamental right to protect
5 the health and safety of their children. Further, this is an all-
6 out affront to our constitution that clearly establishes that
7 parental rights are sacred and secured. The offensive nature of
8 these videos clearly represents the out of touch perspective of the
9 Michigan Department of Education and this Administration who
10 routinely demonstrate their disdain for parents and parents'
11 rights; and

12 Whereas, Parents' fundamental right to direct the care,
13 teaching, and education of their children is infringed upon when
14 school districts do not have total transparency and do not defer to
15 parents regarding their children's gender identity, sexual
16 orientation, preferred pronouns, or any other issue related to
17 their child's gender identity known to the school. Parents have the
18 right to direct any discussion regarding these topics with their
19 children. Michigan's public schools should not promote exploration
20 of gender identity, gender fluidity, or sexual orientation without
21 parental consent. These topics are highly sensitive and, at the
22 very least, require active involvement of parents who are the
23 primary principals in their children's development; now, therefore,
24 be it

25 Resolved by the Senate, That we condemn the Michigan
26 Department of Education's teacher training videos on student gender
27 orientation and reaffirm the fundamental right of parents to direct
28 the education of their children; and be it further

29 Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the

- 1 Governor of Michigan, the State Superintendent of Public
- 2 Instruction, and the State Board of Education.