



STATEMENT ON OHIO STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT PARENTS, SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS IN REJECTING HARMFUL, COERCIVE AND BURDENSOME GENDER IDENTITY POLICIES

The Ohio State Board of Education's October 12, 2022 meeting agenda calls for a vote on the "Resolution to Support Parents, Schools, and Districts in Rejecting Harmful, Coercive and Burdensome Gender Identity Policies." This member-proposed resolution is in response to the U.S. Department of Education's June 23, 2022 proposed amendments to Title IX, which expand protections from sexual discrimination to include discrimination based on gender identity. The amendments also provide for potential restricted federal nutrition funding assistance for schools districts that do not adopt the proposed amendments.

The resolution asks the Ohio State Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction to issue a letter to all public schools to view the Title IX changes as unenforceable. It also supports Ohio State Attorney General Yost's lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Agriculture that requires schools to accept Title IX changes in order to get federal nutritional funding assistance. Further, the resolution will require schools to notify parents if a student is questioning their gender identity.

The Berea Board of Education has expressed its concern for harmful legislation and shown its support for LGBTQIA+ staff, students and families, in its May 9, 2022 "Resolution In Opposition to Any Divisive Concepts Legislation."

The language contained in this resolution would jeopardize the ability of the Berea City School District to ensure ALL students feel a sense of belonging and build a culture that embraces differences and promotes a safe environment in which all students can be their authentic selves. Furthermore, the actions in this resolution risk furthering the current mental health crisis, through isolation, silence and normalizing discrimination by creating a culture where students do not feel valued and respected.

The Berea City School District's vision of "a diverse community dedicated to inspiring the lives of character, learning, leadership and service" guides us in our resolve of being



a school district that intentionally creates environments where students students and staff can learn, work and live with dignity, respect, free from fear and violence, and protected against discrimination regardless of their gender identity/expression or sexual orientation.

This Board of Education further recommits itself to its “Resolution of Commitment to Equity and Excellence in Education” of July 14, 2020, where we stated that the Berea City School District remains staunchly opposed to all forms of discrimination on the basis on one’s race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sex, ability, age, citizenship status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socio-economic status, title or other dimensions of identity.

The Berea Board of Education respectfully requests that members of the Ohio State Board of Education vote **NO** on the “Resolution to Support Parents, Schools, and Districts in Rejecting Harmful, Coercive and Burdensome Gender Identity Policies.” Superintendent Tracy Wheeler is directed to forward this statement to each member of the Ohio State Board of Education and the State Interim Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Ayes: Chapman Farris Mack

Postel Zirke

Ana Chapman
President
Corinne A. Farris
Vice President
Richard Mack
Board Member

Richard Postel
Board Member
L. Zirke
Board Member