



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF MISSOURI
ANDREW BAILEY

January 31, 2023

Melissa Randol
Executive Director,
Missouri School Boards' Association
2100 I-70 Drive SW
Columbia MO 65203

Dear Director Randall:

Missouri schools should be the safest place in the nation for children, and I believe your organization shares that goal.

I ask that you stand with me in calling on school districts across the state to adopt the enclosed resolution pledging to uphold both the spirit and letter of Missouri's controlling statute on human sexuality instruction, Section 170.015, RSMo. Adherence to the law is particularly important in the wake of recent events in which Columbia Public Schools took a group of middle school students to an event that featured a drag show performance. Drag shows are inherently sexualized performances. They are an outward expression of a desired sexuality and sexual identity. They are intended to draw attention to human sexuality in a manner that appeals to prurient interests. Drag shows have no educational value and have no place in our public schools.

Section 170.015, RSMo. has been carefully crafted by the General Assembly to govern the content of human sexuality education in Missouri schools. School districts are required to, among other things, "ensure that all instruction in human sexuality is *appropriate to the age of the students* receiving such instruction." (*emphasis added*). Moreover, school boards are charged with making sure parents are kept informed and notified of the, "basic content of the district's or school's human sexuality instruction to be provided to the student," and of their right, "to remove the student from any part of [such] ... instruction."

I appreciate your member's commitment to faithfully adhering to Missouri law on human sexuality instruction in schools. I applaud their ongoing dedication to protecting students, and welcoming parents as full partners in their children's education. Enclosed with this correspondence is a model resolution I am asking every school board in the state to adopt. It reaffirms the commitment of Missouri's schools to advance our shared goal of protecting our children. It is my sincerest hope that MSBA will stand with me in this fight to protect Missouri children, promote adherence to Missouri law, and ensure parents are fully informed about human sexuality instruction in Missouri schools.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Andrew Bailey, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'A' and 'B'.

Andrew Bailey

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RESOLUTION

Whereas, the [DISTRICT] Board of Education wants to protect the safety and wellbeing of Missouri schoolchildren and provide a safe environment in which they can thrive, and

Whereas, our district is made up of diverse families representing a wide range of beliefs, viewpoints and experiences, and

Whereas, it is important that we stand together on those topics upon which we agree, and

Whereas, we agree that parents and guardians are the primary source of human sexuality education for their children, and

Whereas, we agree that effective human sexuality education, taught in concert with parents and guardians, helps protect the health, safety and welfare of students, and

Whereas, issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression are inextricably intertwined with human sexuality, and

Whereas, drag performances are an example of the type of sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression included in the concept and definition of "human sexuality," and

Whereas, the foregoing comports with section 170.015 RSMo., the controlling Missouri statute on human sexuality instruction, and

Whereas, it is the desire of the [DISTRICT] Board of Education to conform its operations to Missouri law:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, members of the [DISTRICT] Board of Education, affirm that no student under the care, custody and control of this district shall participate in programs, or receive instruction concerning human sexuality unless such programs or instruction comport fully with section 170.015 RSMo., including, but not limited to, subsections four (4) and five (5) requiring that material be age appropriate, and that parents and guardians be given notice and the opportunity to opt their students out of such instruction or activity.