

Submitter: Linda Farrington
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Education
Measure: HB2656

PLEASE VOTE NO ON 2656

I am very concerned about preserving the innocence of children. Surveys today are injecting information about race, sex and political ideologies into young children's minds before they are ready.

1--The information gained has nothing to do with real academics and takes time away from real learning.

2--Our district uses Panorama, which is known for its liberal bias and inappropriate data mining of children's attitudes and feelings. The company's surveys include questions such as:

“How well does your school help students speak out against racism?”

“Currently, I most strongly identify as: Genderqueer, nonbinary or fluid; Female; Male; Transgender; Prefer not to answer”

“Currently, I identify as: heterosexual/straight; LGBTQ+; prefer not to answer.”

These are intrusive questions being asked in some cases of children as young as five years old.

3--The Wall Street Journal exposed in 2021 how Panorama was actively studying preteens in order to determine “the long-term business opportunities presented by these potential users.” This company is making millions of dollars to plant divisive seeds into vulnerable children's minds and it would be reasonable to suspect their motives.

4--But most concerning of all is the disregard this bill has for a parent's right to know what is going on with their own children. This law will take away the right of parents to opt children out. And that is in defiance of our Federal and State laws which still protect the right of parents to oversee the education of their children.

Research still affirms that the parent-child relationship is still the most important predictor of success, not a survey. Please help us preserve and protect a parent's right to engage and responsibly look out for their children.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

REFERENCES:

How Family Engagement Leads to Student Success:

<https://www.waterford.org/education/how-parent-involvement-leads-to-student-success/>

Panorama Education User Guide: Panorama Equity and Inclusion Survey

<https://panorama-www.s3.amazonaws.com/files/sel/SEL-User-Guide.pdf>

Panorama Education SEL: Student Self-Awareness and Efficacy

<https://maine207.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Panorama-Student-Self-Awareness-and-Efficacy.pdf>

Wells, Georgia and Horwitz, Jeff. "Facebook's Effort to Attract Preteens Goes Beyond Instagram Kids, Documents Show," the Wall Street Journal, September 28, 2021 <https://www.wsj.com/articles/facebook-instagram-kids-tweens-attract-11632849667>

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Panorama Raises \$60M to Enhance EdTech Tools, September 2, 2021 <https://chanzuckerberg.com/newsroom/panorama-raises-60m-to-enhance-edtech-tools/>