



June 28, 2024

The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor, State of California  
1021 O Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**SUBJECT – VETO REQUEST FOR ASSEMBLY BILL 1955 (WARD)**

Dear Gov. Newsom:

We ask you to veto Assembly Bill 1955 because it unconstitutionally abrogates parental rights. Public schools are meant to support – not subvert – parents in their efforts to educate their children. This bill would also violate the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act which grants parents universal access to information about their child in their public school. Districts that create dummy files to “support” a new identity for kids stand to lose federal funding.

Additionally, not a single parental notification policy adopted in any California school district requires a teacher or administrator to tell a parent if their child exhibits any signs or behaviors of same-sex attraction. They only require parental notification if a child affirmatively asks a teacher or administrator to change their name or pronouns in class, at school or on official or unofficial records. The California Department of Justice believes that this bill will be litigated. We estimate lawsuits and settlements will cost the state millions of dollars in legal costs.

While it is certainly prudent to protect the privacy of a child from the public – consistent with federal and state law – children do not have a right to privacy that transcends their parents’ well-established rights. Assuming parents are dangerous and not to be trusted, the measure presumes that the state or self-interested strangers are better positioned to deal with the difficulties of adolescence than parents. Hundreds of millions of dollars in settlements with victims of sex assault by public school employees is evidence that the opposite is too often true.

For these reasons, we ask you to veto AB 1955.

Sincerely,

Lance Christensen  
Vice President of Education Policy & Government Affairs