

## NEW JERSEY SENATE

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April 11, 2022

The Honorable Nicholas Scutari  
Senate Democratic Office  
P.O. Box 099  
Trenton, NJ, 08625

Dear Senate President Scutari,

We have heard from a rapidly growing number of parents who are extremely concerned after learning about changes to state curriculum standards related to sex education that they believe are inappropriate for their children or in conflict with their values.

As you are likely aware, the revised New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education were adopted by the New Jersey State Board of Education in 2020, and laws addressing diversity and inclusion curriculum requirements were enacted in 2019 and 2021.

The parents who are contacting us were unaware of these changes or the impact they would have in classrooms until local school districts started sharing resources recently to demonstrate how topics such as sexual activity, masturbation, and gender may be discussed with children at various grade levels to comply with the new curriculum standards.

They have serious questions about the appropriateness of these new requirements, including, for example, that first and second grade children be taught about gender expression and identity.

There is a clear frustration and anger being expressed by parents who do not understand how standards they view as extreme and age inappropriate were adopted, and they don't feel like they ever had a real opportunity to have their voices heard.

Given these extremely serious concerns, we believe the Legislature should convene a special session to suspend these controversial curriculum standards from being implemented.

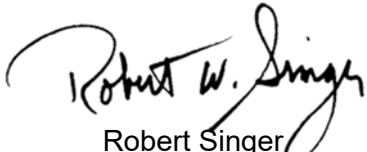
Further, we believe the Legislature should publicize and hold public hearings to give parents the forum they desire to discuss their various curriculum concerns, including both content and the process for adopting and implementing changes. We should

empower parents, not ignore them.

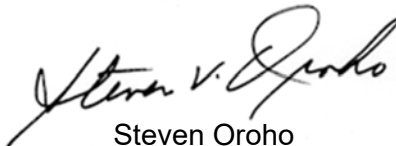
The Legislature has a responsibility as a co-equal branch of government to intervene when a legitimate policy concern of such importance as the education of our children has been raised by so many people.

We should not hesitate to be the model for open, transparent, and responsive government that New Jersey parents deserve.


Sincerely,



Robert Singer  
Deputy Leader



Steven Oroho  
Leader




Joe Pennacchio  
Deputy Leader




Holly Schepisi  
Deputy Conference Leader



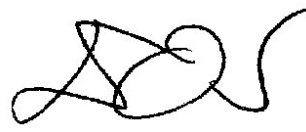
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Whip



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Ranking Member – Judiciary



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Budget Officer