

Press Release:

Obscenity Exemption bill held hostage by Indiana GOP

Warsaw, Ind (January 6, 2022)

Indiana GOP lawmakers continue to play election year politics putting children in harm's way. For whatever reason, Senate Education Chairman, Senator Jeff Raatz, has so far refused to hear Senate Bill 17 as a stand alone bill. Sources tell Purple for Parents Indiana of a backroom deal between House Speaker Todd Huston, Senate Protem, Rod Bray, GOP Caucus Majority Leader, Senator Travis Holdman, Senator Scott Baldwin and Representative Anthony Cook. Reportedly, it was decided during this private meeting to hijack Senate Bill 17 and its champion author, Senator Jim Tomes, and incorporate SB 17 into Senate Bill 167. Senator Scott Baldwin is the author of SB167 while Representative Anthony Cook is the author of HB1134, a duplicate House version. Purple for Parents Indiana finds this hijacking quite deceitful, distrustful and unethical.

Both SB167 & HB1134, are nearly identical in their idea to address critical race theory (CRT) and social emotional learning (SEL) which are both hot button items. However, both bills have major flaws including the lack of fines or penalties for rogue teachers bent on indoctrinating Hoosier children as well as unelected school board controlled curriculum advisory committees. Unfortunately, both bills have incorporated SB17 and neither appear to have the majority of support to pass leaving the idea to repeal Indiana's obscenity exemption in jeopardy for another year.

During yesterday's Senate Education testimony on SB167, it was clear the overwhelming majority of those testifying, including Purple for Parents Indiana, were against the many flaws in SB167. While these topics are indeed issues that need immediate attention, there are two much stronger bills that do that in House Bill 1231 and House Bill 1040. Both of these bills are much stronger in language than SB167 & HB1134, but it appears Indiana's GOP supermajority may not be as serious to address Hoosiers' concerns as they want them to believe.

It should be noted that Purple for Parents Indiana President, Rhonda Miller, and Senator Jim Tomes have worked tirelessly for two years to get Indiana's obscenity exemption overturned. In a conversation with Purple for Parents Indiana today, Senator Tomes stated, "SB17 deserves to have a hearing and be allowed to stand on its own merit."

Purple for Parents Indiana continues to be the only dedicated statewide organization to stand strong for parental rights and the protections of children in classrooms across our state from all forms of indoctrination and sexualization. Purple for Parents Indiana continues to hold our elected officials accountable to Hoosier taxpayers and expects more from them.

We ask you to call Senator Raatz at 800-382-9467 and ask him to stop holding SB17 hostage and give it a fair hearing. We cannot allow our children to be exposed to pornography for another year.. It's shameful that in an election year, political games are being played with the safety of our children.