



Dear Respect Governing Members,

We would like to invite you to join our local Montgomery County coalition, Family Rights for Religious Freedom.

Our mission is to convince Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to reinstate the parental right to both receive advanced notice and opting their children out of newly introduced reading materials that seek to instruct children about subjects that may unnecessarily violate their sincerely held religious beliefs.

We also aim to rigorously ensure that MCPS policies uphold every person's right to religious freedom as set forth in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and to take appropriate action when required to defend those rights.

As you may be aware, (MCPS) recently banned parents and students from receiving advanced notice and the right to opt-out of classroom instruction on new books meant to spark classroom discussions of issues related to human sexuality and relationships.

MCPS' abrupt decision, which was made without consulting local families, has caused great concern among those parents who believe that the material being taught is age-inappropriate or otherwise contradicts their religious beliefs and moral values.

Parents should have the right to know what subjects their children are being taught and when those subjects will be taught, as well as the right to reasonable religious accommodations. Indeed, MCPS rightfully promised that families would have the right to opt-their children out of newly introduced materials of concern last fall, saying they "would not be mandatory" however have gone back on their word Maryland state law also guarantees parents the right to opt their children out of formal sexual education lessons.

We would like to invite you to join our coalition of churches, synagogues, and mosques, as well as other religious and non-religious organizations, that share our concerns and support our mission. Our first action item will be to sign a joint letter asking MCPS to reinstate its opt-out option and re-authorize schools to let parents know in advance about when material of concern will be taught.

We believe that by joining together across faiths and backgrounds, we can make a significant impact on this issue and defend our parental rights and religious freedom. If you are interested in joining our coalition, please email us at outreach@frfusa.org with a brief statement that your organization agrees to join, the name and email of our contact at your organization and a simple release to use your logo on our website and printed material. All official statements will be sent for approval to the designated contact at your organization before release. You can visit our website at www.frrfusa.org for more information.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

Wael Elkoshairi

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