



PARENTS DEFENDING EDUCATION

ACTION

STATEMENT: Delegate Elizabeth Guzman to Introduce Bill
Criminalizing Parents Who Won't Affirm Child's 'Gender
Identity'

October 14, 2022

Last night, Virginia State Delegate Elizabeth Guzman (D.) made alarming remarks during an interview with ABC 7 news. The delegate, who last year filed [one bill](#) aimed at eliminating parents' rights to raise their children, said she plans to introduce further legislation that would criminalize parents who don't "affirm" their child's "gender identity."

Guzman's forthcoming bill would allow "mandated reporters," such as teachers, social workers, and doctors, to report a child's case to Child Protective Services, who could then press charges against a parent for not affirming their child's decision to transition sexes, Guzman said.

The delegate's statement is nothing less than a threat to every parent across the Commonwealth: Confess to dangerous and destructive gender ideology, or give up your right to raise your child.

Parents should not be threatened by the force of law to "affirm" their child's "gender identity" in a manner that violates their moral or religious principles. This breaks federal law, including the First and Fourteenth Amendments, and the [Virginia Code](#).

Further, parents should not be threatened by the force of law to "affirm" their child's "gender identity" through unsound, untested, and dangerous medical treatments such as hormone therapy or surgical procedures. The limited scientific research available on the long-term impacts of medical transitions have found links to permanent [infertility](#) and [osteoporosis](#). Despite the [dubious](#) medical efficacy of such treatments, the rate of children undergoing medical transitions has [skyrocketed](#) in recent years.

Yet, Guzman wants to criminalize parents who object to newly popularized ideas about sex and gender.

Guzman's commitment to cleaving children from their parents is unconscionable and it violates both state and federal law. PDE Action commits to taking swift action to oppose Guzman's forthcoming legislation.