

May 17, 2017



Dear Mr. Wethington,

The Child Protection League rejects the public comments and email responses you have been sending out in defense of the pending draft of the SSTAC's *Toolkit to Ensure Safe and Supportive Schools to Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students*. Specifically, you say:

"The toolkit does not serve as guidance, direction, state or rule; it is intended to provide additional information for districts to consider as they make their own locally-determined policies."

Your response is evasive, dishonest, and totally inconsistent with the tone of the draft. The *Toolkit's* persistent use of imperative language reveals that the SSTAC intend to pressure school districts into adopting policies that promote a dangerous gender ideology on our children. Minnesota gender activists showed up in force at the May 2nd SSTAC meeting. Based upon their comments and reactions, they clearly anticipate using the *Toolkit* as both a tool and a weapon on school boards across the state. The *Toolkit* provides them with a fraudulent cover of legitimacy and credibility. Let me point out some examples:

"In 2016, in the Dear Colleague Letter on Transgender Student, the U.S. Department of Education and Justice issued guidance specifically as it related to Title IX's requirements and transgender students. **While the current presidential administration rescinded this guidance that provided protections to transgender students, Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton and Education Commissioner Brenda Cassellius strongly urge school Boards and school district to adhere to the prior administration's guidance** focused on ensuring safe and supportive environments and equal treatment of transgender students."

The wording "strongly urge" conveys a vastly different message from saying the toolkit was intended to "provide additional information." And in almost all categories of "additional information" (15 times), the Obama 2016 Title IX guidance is referred to and held up to be the example to follow—with only one mention of the Trump countermand. Please see the attached for further detailed analysis.

Contrary to being an innocuous collection of "helpful" information, the **toolkit is a collection of harmful directives and resources from biased organizations that have fully adopted the delusion that gender is determined by feelings**. Genetics is out. Gender fluidity is in. The MDE seems determined to force a counterfeit ideology of humanity upon all of us. **This is tyrannical, and our children are vulnerable and unsuspecting targets**. Those who reject this ideology will be bullied and punished – all in the name of 'Safe Schools.'

We recommend that the *Toolkit* be scrapped, and that the SSTAC focus on policies that protect *all* students from bullying and that safeguard their personal privacy.

Sincerely,

Barb Anderson
Child Protection League