

# Public Comment by Bryan Mortensen

*Nevada State Board of Education – April 26, 2018*

My name is Bryan Mortensen, for the record. Mr. Newburn, members of the Board, staff, Mr. Canavero: thank you for being here. I appreciate you guys doing one of the most important things that we do as a community - talk about and take action on education. Super important and I am glad you guys are here doing these long meetings all of the time.

I wanted to respond to some comments made by Mr. Canavero today earlier in his report.

Mr. Canavero stated that there have been 3 public meetings concerning proposed regulation R099-17 on Gender Diversity. What he didn't mention is that those meetings have been heavily attended by the public. The majority of the attendees to these meetings have been parents and other stakeholders who have expressed serious concern about the proposed regulations.

Mr. Canavero has stated that the proposed regulations have been modified to address the concerns that have been raised. I would disagree with that and I find that the latest version of the regulations do not address any of the concerns raised by the parents and other stakeholders, including but not limited to: forced speech, religious persecution, mandated curriculum, infringement on parental rights and student privacy, just to name some of the most egregious ones. If given time I would love to go over those specifically, if the Board wants to discuss those.

Mr. Canavero has stated today that the proposed regulation includes input from various groups. I find little to no evidence that NDE has included any group, other than those groups that would be categorized as transgender rights groups, in drafting these regulations.

The verbiage of this proposed regulation comes almost word for word out of one of two documents. The first document is the *Model District Policy on Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Students* put out by GLSEN and the National Center for Transgender Equality. The second document is *Schools in Transitions* put out by Gender Spectrum, HRC, National Center for Lesbian Rights and other organizations. These two documents have been relied on and referenced heavily in attempting to define rights and needs of transgender kids and in developing this proposed regulation. There are two major problems with these documents that have been referenced. They rely heavily on political ideology, intersectional identity politics, and harmful social engineering. They are also based on guidance put out by the Obama Administration that has since been rescinded.

There is no federal or state guidance in existence that defines rights and needs of transgender students. There is no scientific support for what is being proposed in Regulation R099-17.

Member Ortiz stated today that she wants to do what is right for the kids. I am confident that this is exactly what all parents want to do. Unfortunately, the empirical evidence clearly shows that the actions proposed by these regulations will do more harm than good.

I have provided Mr. Canavero a compilation of peer reviewed research and studies across multiple disciplines, which clearly contradict (and do not lend support to) almost every section of the proposed regulation.

Mr. Canavero stated that he supports this regulation and intends to adopt it as soon as possible. This regulation has serious legal and ethical problems and is nowhere near being ready for adoption.

I respectfully request that this regulation is "shredded", in Mr. Canavero's terms, and that NDE start over, but this time, I request that they bring parents and parent rights groups to the table.

Thank you.