## The New American

Author: Elad Hakim Date: May 24, 2022





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## State Farm's Recent Efforts Perfectly Exemplify Why the Parental Rights in Education Bill Is Vital

State Farm has joined the ranks of those seeking to introduce impermissible material to young children in Florida's public schools.

As recently reported by the *Washington Examiner*, an email shared by a whistleblower was quite revealing:

The email, obtained by the nonprofit organization Consumers' Research and shared with the Washington Examiner, revealed that State Farm has partnered with the GenderCool Project, which promotes issues of gender identity in children through various advocacy and public awareness programs, to donate a packet of three books to local schools and public libraries.

The three books, A Kids Book About Being Transgender, A Kids Book About Being Non-Binary, and A Kids Book About Being Inclusive, contain various descriptions about gender and identity meant to disprove the notion that gender is the same as biological sex and establish that it is therefore changeable.

The GenderCool Project markets the "three book bundle" to children ages 5 and over, a fact noted in the whistleblower email.

"The project's goal is to increase representation of LGBTQ+ books and support our communities in having challenging, important and empowering conversations with children age 5+," the email said.

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State Farm's efforts to introduce such books appears to run afoul of Florida's <u>Parental Rights in Education</u> bill, which prohibits or limits the discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity in the state's primary schools.

The company's efforts may also violate <u>CB/HB 1467</u>. As reported by <u>Right Side Broadcasting Network</u>, this bill requires government oversight and approval before <u>material</u> may be utilized in school-district libraries and classrooms, compels <u>anyone</u> involved in selecting school-district library materials to complete a training program designed by the Florida Department of Education, <u>allows</u> parents to object to any proposed material, and compels <u>school principals</u> to ensure that all school-district procedures are properly followed.

While some Democrats have criticized these bills on the grounds that they are "anti-gay," or "homophobic," these criticisms lack merit. The bills have nothing to do with LGBTQ rights or curtailing such rights. Rather, the bills aim to limit the types of topics that children are taught in the classroom and to ensure that the topics are relevant and appropriate. They also provide parents with an opportunity to have a say when it comes to what their children are learning in school.

These laws are imperative and must be enforced to prevent the sexualization and indoctrination of young children. A recent article in the <u>National Review</u> is instructive. There, the author described one of the books in the three-book bundle, which is part of the <u>GenderCool Collection</u>:

In the book Non-Binary, a character named Gia is introduced to young readers as a transgender girl who uses she/her pronouns. "When you're born, a doctor looks at you and says, 'It's a boy!' or 'It's a girl!' based on your body. But gender isn't that simple. You see, when I was born, the doctor said, 'It's a boy!' But...this wasn't true," Gia narrates.

"Gender is how you feel in your heart and mind, but it may not match what the doctor says when you are born," it reads.

Simply stated, such material has no place in the classroom. It is inappropriate and serves no purpose other than to confuse children by imposing a progressive ideology cloaked under the name of "inclusion." Children are not tools that the Left can utilize and manipulate to spread its progressive agenda.

For these reasons, laws such as those in Florida are desperately needed. Assuming they can withstand legal scrutiny (i.e., some argue that the law(s) are, among other things, overly broad and/or vague), other states should follow Florida's lead and pass similar laws.