



Roy Cooper, Governor  
*State of North Carolina*

GOVERNOR ROY COOPER OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

***Senate Bill 49, "AN ACT TO ENUMERATE THE RIGHTS OF PARENTS TO DIRECT THE UPBRINGING, EDUCATION, HEALTH CARE, AND MENTAL HEALTH OF THEIR MINOR CHILDREN."***

Parents are the most essential educators for their children and their involvement must be encouraged, but this bill will scare teachers into silence by injecting fear and uncertainty into classrooms. This "Don't Say Gay" bill also hampers the important and sometimes lifesaving role of educators as trusted advisers when students have nowhere else to turn. The rights of parents are well established in state law, so instead of burdening schools with their political culture wars, legislators should help them with better teacher pay and more investments in students.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper  
Governor

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina Senate on this the 5 day of July 2023, at 12:59 pm for reconsideration by that body.

RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR

Date July 5, 2023

Time 1:00 p.m.

Signed Leigh Hipple

The Capitol Building, Raleigh, NC 27602  
Mail: 20301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-0301  
Phone: (919)814-2100

**SECTION 3.(b)** This section becomes effective December 1, 2023, and applies to violations committed on or after that date.

**PART IV. EFFECTIVE DATE**

**SECTION 4.** Except as otherwise provided, this act becomes effective August 15, 2023.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of July, 2023.



Carl Ford  
Presiding Officer of the Senate

**VETO**  
*Roy Cooper*



Erin Paré  
Presiding Officer of the House of Representatives



Roy Cooper  
Governor

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ .m. this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023

RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR

Date July 5, 2023

Time 1:00 p.m.

Signed Luis Dippel