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To: Members of the Board of Supervisors and School Board of Hanover County, Virginia with copies to other elected officials
From: The Salt and Light Council, 9064 Stumpy Road, Ashland, VA 23005
Date: May 26, 2016

On May 13, 2016, you received a joint letter from the United States Departments of Education and Justice stating that you must permit “transgendered” students to use rest rooms, locker rooms and other private facilities that match the self-determined “gender identity” of such students. This mandate was accompanied by the threat of withheld federal funding if the order is not obeyed. We want our message to you on this issue to be very clear.

First, you must not permit our children to be used as political pawns by the overly zealous ideologues who have threatened this action in furtherance of their selfish desire to attain sexual egalitarianism through ill-advised social experimentation.

Second, while we have great compassion for those students who suffer from the assumptive disorder of transgenderism, it is wrong to suppress the truth and withhold the medical attention they require. Scripture tells us that truth must, in all cases, be spoken in love. What you are being asked to do by the mandate is not a demonstration of love. It is the application of a false “truth”. The underlying science reported by the American College of Pediatricians and by Dr. Paul R. McHugh, the former psychiatrist-in-chief for Johns Hopkins Hospital, clearly indicates the vast majority of gender confused adolescents “accept their biological sex after naturally passing through puberty.” The government’s joint mandate asks you to not only ignore this most current science but to also disregard the data that now shows encouragement and facilitation of gender confusion is actually detrimental to the health of the child. Isn’t it absurd to think we should take steps to correct other assumptive disorders such as anorexia and bulimia (the flawed assumption being that the victims of the disorder are overweight) while we actively facilitate gender dysphoria? Your compliance with the “guidance” offered by DOE and DOJ would constitute gross disregard for the duty you owe these impressionable children and youth who must rely upon adults, such as you, for protection.

Third, you intuitively understand what you’re being asked to do is wrong. Those who support the position of DOE and DOJ were convinced to do so by foolishly accepting contrived arguments predicated upon flawed logic such as the most prevalent which analogizes this behavior to the genetically produced condition of race. This is done to engender images of the civil rights movement. Transgender is not the new Black. Any argument predicated upon the equivocation of an assumed belief that distorts reality and a genetic circumstance that produces a true reality must be disregarded as insanity.

Finally, (and most importantly) if you are a Christian, you understand that the federal government’s mandate is an affront to God’s law and to His perfect design for human existence. Your choice is clear; either succumb to the shameful extortion of the DOE and DOJ or reject it; and, if

necessary, forego the federal funds they threaten to illegally withhold. This final point is most forcefully supported by the Apostle Paul in Romans 1, *“¹⁸ For God’s wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, ¹⁹ since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. ²⁰ For His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse. ²¹ For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened. ²² Claiming to be wise, they became fools.”*

Should you listen to advice offered by a religious group known as the Salt & Light Council? Consider this. America was formed as a nation of laws, not of men. The guiding principles shaping those laws were to have been the transcendent truths of the Judeo-Christian faith. Our founding fathers did not intend that the church would control the state nor did they ever envision that the state would (as it is seeking to do today) control the church. Their willingness to go to war with the English should be adequate proof of that fact.

What gets lost in the debate concerning the separation of church and state, however, is the clarity of wisdom demonstrated by our founders who affirmed that God must never be separated from state. They acknowledged God as the source of all our human rights. His Divine morality was incorporated by reference into the documents they drafted to source all our laws. God’s law influences our values and culture precisely to help prevent a totalitarian or tyrannical rule in America.

Whose guidance will be expressed in the decision you make concerning this and the other matters that come before you? Man’s or God’s?

The undersigned members and friends of the Salt & Light Council whose names appear below endorse the sentiments expressed in this statement and pray the thoughts conveyed will impact you in a Godly manner.

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