

# Cheri Reisch Extremism Spotlight

**Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch claimed, without evidence, that Columbia Public School students dressed as animals using litter boxes as bathrooms.** The Columbia Daily Tribune reported, “State Rep. Cheri Reisch is spreading an unfounded rumor on her Facebook page that Columbia Public Schools students dressed as animals are using litterboxes as their bathroom, said the district superintendent and her November opponent. ‘This is happening in Columbia Public Schools also,’ Reisch wrote in a Tuesday post linking to another post. ‘Yes, the janitor has to clean the litter box. To read more comments, click on the original post.’ People dressing as animals sometimes refer to themselves as ‘furrries.’ Some on Facebook asked her to provide evidence or proof, but she didn’t. Others believed her claim and questioned what the school district was doing about it. ‘There are no litterboxes and there never have been,’ Superintendent Brian Yearwood said Thursday after investigating the claim. Tuesday was the first day of school for CPS. ‘Running down these unwarranted rumors is a tremendous waste of time,’ Yearwood said. ‘Our focus is on the education of our scholars.’” She stood by her disputed claim and said she wanted to protect confidential sources. [Columbia Daily Tribune; [8/25/2022](#)]

**Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch sponsored legislation to expand charter schools within the Columbia Public Schools District.** According to KBIA, “Reisch’s bill would allow charter schools to operate within the Columbia Public Schools District without the local district’s sponsorship. The measure states that charter schools may operate in a school district with a population of more than 125,000 but less than 160,000. Columbia’s population is slightly greater than 126,000 people, according to the 2020 census from the U.S. Census Bureau. The bill’s fiscal note shows an estimated impact of \$2,807,469 to \$13,335,474, depending on the number of charter schools created and the number of students choosing to enroll. Fiscal notes are an estimate of the direct impact of bills required by Missouri law.” HB 1941 passed out of the House Special Committee on Education Reform. [[HB 1941](#), HCS Voted Do Pass, 1/29/2024; KBIA, [1/30/2024](#)]

**Representative Cheri Toalson Reisch opposed an amendment to raise the threshold for child marriages from 15 to 16.** In 2018, the Evans amendment would make 16 the minimum age for marriage in Missouri with parental consent and prohibit marriage between a child and anyone over 21. According to the Kansas City Star, Rep. Cheri Toalson Reisch opposed the measure because, “her parents, who married in the 1950s, would have been prevented from doing so under Evans’ amendment. “In my day, if a woman got (pregnant) out of wedlock, they had to revert to a shotgun wedding. But now,” Toalson Reisch said, “let’s just ... stay single, let’s not have a two-parent household or a father in the picture of this child.” Toalson Reisch also expressed concern for how the amendment would affect religious groups such as the Amish in her community. “They feel biblically