

Dear Chairman Heinert and members of the House Education Committee:

I urge a “Do Not Pass” on SB 2244.

This bill, if approved, would put young LGBTQ+ students at risk of significant harm. According to the Trevor Project, “41% of LGBTQ+ young people seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including roughly half of transgender and nonbinary youth” (2024). Additionally, young people who live and study in gender-affirming spaces report “lower rates of attempting suicide” (Trevor Project, 2024). As of 2024, only 38% of LGBTQ+ youths defined their homes as “LGBTQ+ affirming” and “just over 1 in 3 transgender and nonbinary youth found their home to be gender-affirming.” The Trevor Project is just one of many resources that highlights the key role gender-affirming spaces and communication plays in keeping LGBTQ+ people alive. One way to affirm someone’s gender is to use their personally chosen name and pronouns when speaking to or about them. This bill would give guardians the right to deny young people gender affirmation at school, ignoring the reality that denying students their right to self-expression and limiting their exposure to information about themselves and others like them is life-threatening. This bill puts guardians’ and the state’s sensitivities regarding gender and sexuality above young people’s lives. Young people in our public schools are learning who they are. Ideally, this would be encouraged, and at the very least it should not be stymied.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,

Brittany Borgen

The Trevor Project, 2024: <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/resources/article/facts-about-lgbtq-youth-suicide/>