Dear Chair Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,

My testimony is in opposition to House Bill 1473. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.

I don't believe this bill solves or changes any identified problem within our institutes. It creates a legislative oversight to the century code on regulation of gender spaces that appears to be completely unnecessary micro-managing. It may have unintended logistical consequences for individuals with "X" markers on identification cards or facilities that may require some co-ed spaces due to space and logistics.

As I look at the research impacting suicidality for LGBTQ+ populations, we know discrimination has a huge impact on mental health and accessibility for services. We know that when trans individuals can't use the facilities appropriate for them, they lose opportunity. If they can't use bathrooms appropriate for them they stop drinking water. That said, this bill at present doesn't impact LGBTQ+ individuals to my knowledge. This bill is currently just nonsense.

While it should not pass committee as it stands, I would offer any amendments to this legislation that would restrict LGBTQ+ individuals should be taken with extra consideration for the legality, impact, and opportunity they have on this demographic.

One thing that is of great concern to me is privacy, especially in bathrooms and locker rooms. I would recommend rewriting this entire piece of legislation to focus on privacy. To ensure each individual can experience privacy in these spaces. If we achieve that, we make spaces accessible for all populations without worry who is trans, cis, male, female, or non-binary. We all get to enjoy privacy, we sidestep issues of accessibility, and we all benefit in that system.

Take this time to do something that would be fantastic for all of us. Turn this piece of legislation into something with meaning and impact. Short of that, I recommend Do Not Pass.

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

Best regards,
Faye Seidler