

My name is Brett Whitney and I am here to speak against House Bill 1522.

This bill, if passed, would have a devastating impact on transgender students in our state. By prohibiting accommodations for transgender students, this bill would effectively get rid of safe spaces for them in our schools.

Transgender students already face high levels of discrimination and bullying in school. They are more likely to experience harassment and violence, and are at a higher risk for depression and suicide. This bill would only make these problems worse.

By eliminating accommodations for transgender students, this bill sends a message to them that they are not welcome or valued in our schools. It tells them that their identities are not valid, and that their needs do not matter. This is unacceptable.

Furthermore, this bill creates a private right of action for parents or legal guardians of students who have suffered damages as a result of a violation of the law, which would only further harm the students.

I urge you to vote against this harmful bill and work towards creating inclusive and supportive schools for all students, including transgender students.