

## Opposition to HB 1522

I am writing to express my alarm and great opposition to HB 1522. I urge a Do Not Pass.

This bill discriminates against the transgender community, and for what purpose? Transgender youths are already at higher risk for depression and suicide. This bill seeks to ostracize them even more. For a Legislature that prides itself on freedoms and on being pro-life, this bill is clearly big government meddling in the affairs of local schools and other people's private lives. It takes away freedoms from transgender youth, takes away the ability of schools and teachers to make healthy accommodations for these students, takes away the ability of school counselors to provide good mental health care for transgender students.

What is the fear here? Medical doctors, psychiatrists, counselors, all affirm the presence of gender dysphoria. Passing harmful and unnecessary laws does not make gender dysphoria go away. It only increases the pain and suffering of those who are trying to make their way through life. The right to life is about more than just having a heartbeat and breathing. It is about mental health and wellness; it is about being loved and accepted; it is about being able to pursue one's dreams, without the hassle of discriminating laws. Transgender youth have every right to expect these same freedoms and opportunities as their cisgender classmates. Anything else is pure discrimination, and therefore unconstitutional.

This bill needs a Do Not Pass

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