

Dear Legislators,

Abhorrent. Absolutely abhorrent of you to attempt to pass a bill to further ostracize and punish transgender youth for simply being who they are. You should all know by now that transgender individuals are at high risk for death by suicide. You seem to disregard this as being fact that has been studied by psychologists in recent years with scientific papers reporting on it. **I find that to be a blatant disregard for the lives of a very susceptible group of people.**

Additionally, human biology is vast and expansive. Sex organs are not always unambiguous. And how do you intend to prove or disprove the nature of a *minor's genitals* in order to decide what bathroom they should use? Do you truly intend to subject children to genital exams?

Not only this, but hormones and chromosome are also not a black and white matter. XX and XY are not the only possible combinations of chromosomes and hormone levels vary from person to person regardless of "biological sex".

Your scientific illiteracy makes me shudder when I think that you are attempting to make laws governing anyone's body in this way.

The bill also states that the school may only provide access to a unisex restroom if "*the student had gender-affirming surgery before the effective date of this Act*". Minors are not recommended to have gender-affirming surgery until age 15 or 17 according WPATH (World Professional Association for Transgender Health) standards and most certainly not without consent from a parent or legal guardian. That is, if the child survives long enough to push through the horrible barrage of anti-trans legislation this country is attempting to push.

On the matter of denying children appropriate restroom use and safe spaces with teachers, I don't even know where to begin in explaining that **it is undeniably important to give children safe spaces to be themselves.** They are humans. They do have a sense of self and they ought to be allowed to explore what is right for them in terms of name, personal pronouns, and gender identity, and to be able to use the correct corresponding restroom.

And finally, the part of the bill that is one of the most obnoxiously ridiculous things I've heard introduced thus far: "*[...] a [...] school [...] may not: Adopt a policy establishing [...] an accommodation that caters to a student's perception of being any animal species other than human.*"

This is in reference to a **hoax** claiming that **litter boxes were placed in bathrooms** for students who participate in furry culture (closely identifying with a non-human animal character). It was started in Canada and spread to the U.S. and is, and has been for some time now, **easily debunked via a simple Google search.**

Ultimately, and once again as it will be for every anti-trans legislation, this bill stands only to promote hate, bigotry, and violence against transgender youth and adults alike. Trans people just want to live their lives and trans kids deserve to become trans adults who can live their most authentic lives.

I am IN OPPOSITION to bill HB1522.