

March 13, 2023

RE: Opposition to HB 1488

Chairman and Legislators:

I write in opposition to HB 1488. As a parent, I have witnessed the agony of living misaligned between brain and body and how simply feeling a sense of belonging when part of a club, the joy of being part of a team, and the confidence that comes with contributing to a group can positively affect the quality of life. I have also witnessed the devastating impact of what physical violence, verbal abuse, segregation, abandonment, bullying and intentional rejection can have on a once thriving child when discrimination is allowed and encouraged in the school setting and activities.

We all know that activities build work ethic, character, and social skills. Activities boost self- confidence, character, and leadership skills. When exclusion exists, young people find ways to deal with the rejection and loneliness often in unhealthy ways.

By opposing HB 1488, you will ensure that all students have a chance to participate in activities to build vital life-skills and not fall into abusive habits or increased risk of mental health disorders.

Please vote DO NOT PASS to HB 1488. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Tara Jensen

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