

I strongly oppose this bill. Trans children should be able to explore their gender identity in completely harmless ways, such as using a name or pronouns that more accurately matches their gender identity. Children may see schools as a safe zone where they can express their gender identity, and parents may not be supportive of their children's gender identity. This can become dangerous for children, because it would take away their potential only safe space to express themselves. This could contribute to significant mental health concerns for trans children who do not have safe spaces to express themselves.

The fact that this bill is being considered shows ignorance on the part of the bill's sponsors. Our state needs to work to be more inclusive of all of our citizens, not target an entire demographic because of personal prejudices. The fact that this bill is being considered is embarrassing for our state. It shows such ignorance of factual information and the discriminatory behavior of our lawmakers.

Megan Degenstein, Ph.D.
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor