

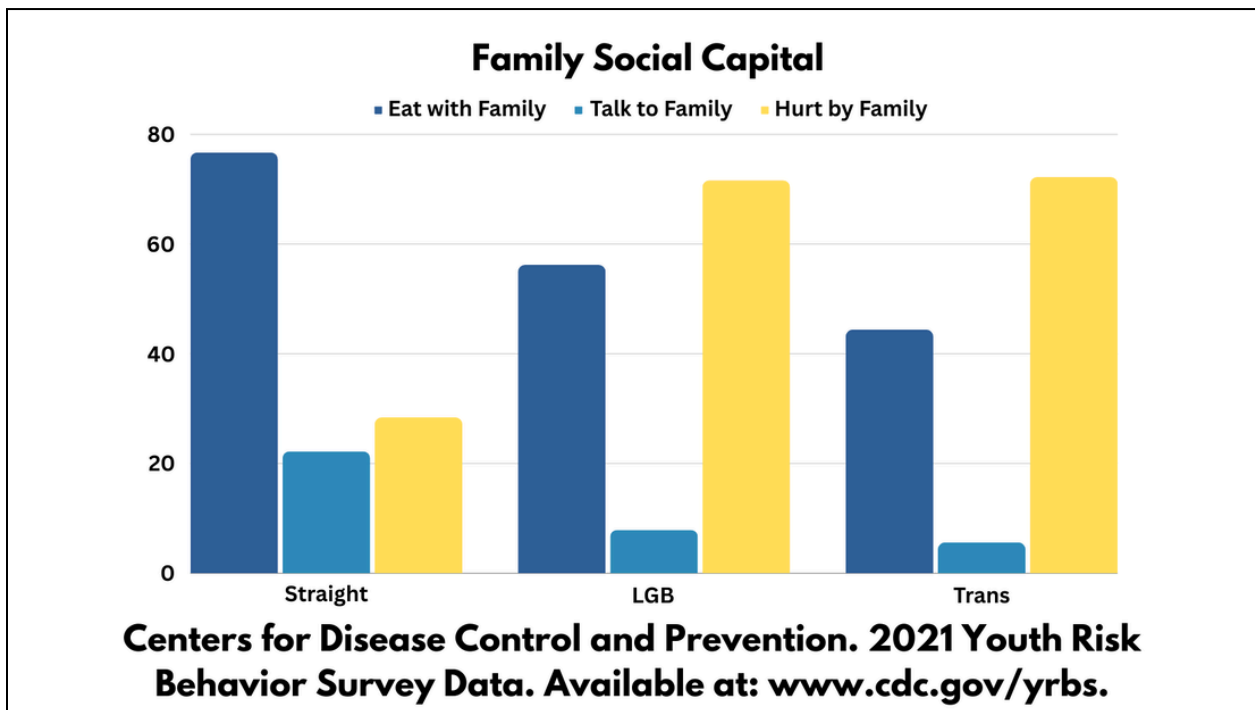
**House Education Committee**  
**Feb 10th, 2025 HB 1553**  
**Testimony in Support**

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Dear Chair Heinert and the members of the House Education Committee,

I urge a “Do Pass” on HB 1553.

When looking at data from the 2021 YRBS, we find that for many youths, they do not eat with their families, talk to their families when they’re having a problem, and also report experiencing harm from their families. While there are many loving parents and families across our state, there are some where kids are starving and suffering.



How does a kid concentrate in school when they’re hungry? How does a kid have hope or avoid depression when they don’t know where they’ll eat? If we’re taking upstream prevention I can hardly think of a better investment than feeding kids, because without this, they very much don’t have the basic necessities of life or a decent shot at it.

I know in the past we have talked about parental responsibility on these bills or leveraged this as a quasi tax break to help families reduce the cost of raising kids. And I think any armchair philosophy about this subject is an exercise in pointlessness if we’re not solving hunger for kids in our state. Parents should be responsible, families should have support, but if kids are starving then I’m not sure I care about any of that. The only thing that matters in this conversation is the kids and they deserve to eat no matter the circumstances of their home.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and service to our state,  
Faye Seidler