

# Testimony in opposition of HB 1144

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Chairman Ruby and members of Human Services,

I am writing this to urge you to vote a do not pass on HB 1144.

As a school social worker, I must rely on treatments and interventions that are evidenced based.

When students are allowed to bathrooms that align with their gender identity they have lower rates of anxiety and instances of bullying and report better mental health outcomes (Reisner et al., 2020).

When transgender children support are supported in their identities, they reported lower rates of suicidal ideation and depression (Olson et al., 2021).

The evidence is clear that allowing students access to bathrooms that reflect their gender identity benefits students. This evidence compels me to urge you to vote no on HB 1144.

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Olson, K. R., Durwood, L. M., Conron, K. J., & Best, J. A. (2021). Mental health of transgender children who are supported in their identities. *Pediatrics*, 147(6), e2020031589. <https://doi.org/10.1542/peds.2020-031589>

Reisner, A. D., White Hughto, J. M., Pardee, D. J., & Dunham, E. S. (2020). The impact of gender-affirming bathrooms on the well-being of transgender students. *Journal of LGBT Youth*, 17(2), 145–162. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19361653.2019.1644485>