

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1144

27 January 2025

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This bill not only represents a gross misuse of the government's time and resources but a great misunderstanding on transgender people as a whole. This bill and many like it have the preconceived notion that somehow they are in the defense of something. Whether that be defense of our children, women, parental rights, etc. This bill stands to protect nothing and no one, and will only go on to harm many of the children you swore to serve.

There just simply is not a reason for this bill to even exist. There is no precedent, no prior incidents, and no cause. Trans people are not a threat to the people around them. And for some of us using the bathroom that best fits what we know ourselves to be is very important. Forcing our trans youth to use the bathroom of their sex rather than their gender is unnecessary and only serves to harm them. And the forcible outing of trans students is simply barbaric and will open up some of these children up to abuse and hate from their own families. This would achieve nothing. These children will not magically become cisgender because they are berated by their parents or sent to conversion therapy. It will simply lead them closer to much darker futures filled with self hatred and mistreatment from others.

If you ever talked to a trans person you would realize that they are just like you. We may seem odd to you in our appearance, mannerism, or in our beliefs about ourselves. But we are just people, people filled with hopes, aspirations, and love. You may not understand why we are the way we are or even want to. But that's ok. I ask not for your understanding or care but for your hearts. Your heart to accept that someone is different from you and to see that we mean you and everyone else no harm. And that we wish to live our lives to the same words as our ancestors and all of our fellow Americans have since our great union separated from the Empire of Britain. "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness". Why should our youth be limited from this goal promised for all Americans just because of who they are as a person. Why should they potentially be exposed to abuse from their fellow students and parents because of this. So I implore you! Remember these words and principles as you deliberate over us. And remember that we are your constituents just like everyone else in this great state and harbour that same dream that so many around the world long for.

We have real problems in this great state. Problems that are much more in need of our government's attention than what room people like me decide to perform a bodily function that all humans do. Please reach into your heart and see our plight. Choose not hate for your fellow man but love and compassion. I sincerely hope we as a community can refocus on these critical issues so we all as a state can become greater for it.