

I am writing you to ask that you, the members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, vote DO NOT PASS relative to HB1298. This Bill cruelly targets transgender students under the age of 18, particularly transgender girls. The negative impacts that this bill will have on the health and well-being of transgender students in our state are immeasurable. These are students who have difficulty in almost every aspect of their lives, please do not add targeting in the area of sports to those difficulties. As the mother of two children, including one playing high school sports, I can assure you that it is just plain wrong for you to consider discriminatory actions such as those this bill would make law. My daughter has taught me a lot about the willingness of children to be accepting of transgender students, and she and her friends could teach those people who drafted this Bill much more. My daughter doesn't give a second thought relative to how transgender children in her school might impact her, instead, she expresses concerns regarding any transgender student who is treated poorly because they are transgender. This is a mindset she developed on her own. A mindset of accepting differences, seeking to understand them, and supporting those who have a harder time in life than she does.

I read something today that was written relative to the experiences of the past year of living through a pandemic, but it honestly applies here too. Someone asked the question, "what has the past year taught you that will stick with you for the rest of your life?" The response that seems applicable here was, "I have learned that there are two types of people: those who believe in doing what is best for everyone even if it means personal sacrifice and those who see their own inconvenience as unacceptable no matter what." Please vote DO NOT PASS on HB 1298, and show yourselves to be the former rather than the latter.