

Dear Chair Weisz and members of the House Human Services Committee,  
My testimony is in opposition to House Bill 1473. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass.

One of the concerns my transgender teen had when they were alive was access to spaces where they could change clothes for gym or to use the restroom. There was only one “gender neutral” bathroom at their high school and it was not easily accessible given the time constraints associated with class transition times. There simply was not enough time to go to that bathroom and get to the next class without being penalized with a tardy. My teen stopped drinking fluids at school. They stopped eating at school. The end result was mild dehydration and chronic migraines, missed school, and general malaise.

In the locker room for gym at school, there were constant battles with finding a safe place to change clothes. A person should be able to wear the undergarments that make them feel most comfortable, and they should not be subjected to teasing, or physical assaults because someone else “feels” its not necessary. So, my child avoided PE, took the poor grade and decided school was overrated and that there were better “safe” opportunities elsewhere.

A solution to both these issues would be designated spaces where there were private stalls, in gender neutral bathrooms. That “dressing for PE” be an optional, and the class be pass/fail. Another alternative altogether could be a virtual PE class, where students can use their assigned chrome books to attend a PE virtual class with an instructor leading the class. Students could exercise in the privacy in their own space. There should be alternatives for students who do not feel safe in gym locker rooms. All students should feel safe at school.

All of these concerns were factors that contributed to their suicide on 9/28/22.

One thing that is of great concern to me is privacy, especially in bathrooms and locker rooms. I would recommend rewriting this entire piece of legislation to focus on privacy. To ensure each individual can experience privacy in these spaces. If we achieve that, we make spaces accessible for all populations without worry who is trans, cis, male, female, or non-binary. We all get to enjoy privacy, we sidestep issues of accessibility, and we all benefit in that system.

Take this time to do something that would be fantastic for all of us. Turn this piece of legislation into something with meaning and impact. Short of that, I recommend Do Not Pass.

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

Very Respectfully,  
Asheley LeFors, Raven’s Mom  
Raven, Forever 16