

Hi there, I am writing this testimony in opposition to SB 2231. This bill would allow for the discrimination of trans individuals, and simultaneously grant protections to those who would engage in discrimination be it in the workplace or at school. A bill like this would only serve to increase the rate at which trans individuals take their own lives by protecting the bullies of this world and their discriminatory practices. What is most confounding to me is bullet point 2 in: 14-02.4-03.1. Preferred pronoun - Discriminatory practice. Where-in those who would engage in an activity that is proven to dramatically lower the mental health of an individual, put them at greater risk of self-harm, and also leave them prone to subsequent harassment, are the ones being protected from discrimination. It just makes no sense. Its like looking at a bully at a school yard and telling the kid who takes a risk to stand up to them, that because of their actions they are getting detention, not the bully. This is America and we are a democracy. Telling people how they need to act and what they need to say, not only goes against First Amendment rights, but it also goes against our core-tenants. In doing so, it creates a land that is not-so free anymore. And for that, I urge you to reconsider.