

Dear Chair Larson and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My testimony is in opposition to Senate Bill 2231. I ask that you give this bill a Do Not Pass. I really hope you're starting to see a pattern of hate, discrimination, and lack of understanding the authors of these bills are trying to push with each one. Bill after bill doing the same thing but in different words hoping that one will stick so they can enforce their religious views on the entire population of the state. They often refer to their religion when expressing why these bills need to exist. We could argue the specifics of our nation's separation of church and state till we are all blue in the face but You cannot suppress others religion which is what this bill seeks to do. The authors of these hate fueled bills would rather the LGBTQ community kill itself so they don't have to see it, going so far as to try and re-establish the discredited conversion therapy that has claimed many lives. They also want to say a public school cannot teach historical and scientific facts if it happens to conflict with their religion, Public schools are not religious institutions, One's religion should not be forcefully thrust upon another parents' kids, I think we can all agree to that. That's why public schools need to teach what is current, provable, and factual. Leave the religion at church and home. Why am I talking about religion on a bill that forces trans kids to live a lie, threatens their safety and seeks to harm them? Because that is what the authors of this bill will inevitably bring up when discussing this. This bill does real long term harm to children. If this bill passes we will see a rise in suicides and that is not guess. And I will blame each and every one of those suicides on those who wrote it and voted it in DESPITE it not being what aligns with MOST of our states residence. ALSO the bill says "A school cannot Adopt a policy or practice regarding expressed gender" Well an unintended consequence of that is now schools cant have a casual dress code and girls have to wear skirts, I mean pants where expressly cross dressing for women up until the 20th century and these bills are seemingly being written as if we still live in the 1800s. As a society we are always growing and learning so please vote DO NOT PASS on this bill, do not send us back in time with this grossly bigoted Bill.

-Nate Brown