

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 recommendation.

LGBTQ Youth are more than 4 times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers (Johns et al., 2019; Johns et al., 2020). This isn't a result of the label. It's a direct outcome of being marginalized and discriminated against, which is this bill's clear and explicit intent.

This bill, and others that seek to further limit the LGBTQ+ community directly contribute to the increased risk of suicide.

Now, addressing specifically the conservative supermajority backing these bills...

If you hold dear your Christian beliefs, if you profess to be pro-life, if there's scripture on your bedside table, if the all-loving Christ is your ultimate role model... then please sincerely question what you're doing here supporting this legislation... legislation that will increase risk of suicide in Jesus' most beloved population: kids.

More kids will attempt to kill themselves as a direct result of your "Yes" votes. Please, please, please pause here and sit with that fact.

Kids you seek to protect at all costs when they're in the womb matter this little to you now that they've come into full waking consciousness and discovered who God made them to be? Really?

IF there is an actual problem here to be solved, grow up and have a modicum of creativity in solving it. The amount of thought that went into this bill is embarrassing. Kids will get hurt. Kids will be lost. And you will be to blame.

Sincerely,

Benjamin M. Hanson