

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Morgan Stonecipher
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 2:03 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

I strongly oppose Governor Dunleavy's HB105 bill. It is unnecessary regulation that will cause easily avoidable harm and trauma to all of Alaska's youth, regardless of their identity. This removes their privacy protections while forcing school staff to no longer be a safe space for children to communicate their feelings and discover who they are in an informed and responsible way. The removal of sex education under grade 4 is particularly alarming. School districts already have the ability to ensure sex education is developmentally appropriate, and there is no evidence that explicit content is being discussed with elementary aged kids. Sex education courses in elementary school discuss healthy boundaries, safe touch vs. Bad touch, and basic puberty changes that all kids will go through. These have shown to have substantial impact in reducing the amount of child sex abuse cases, particularly when it comes to discovering the assault early and holding the perpetrator accountable. If this bill passes, those courses will no longer be legal to provide in this state. This bill intentionally targets LGBTQ+ youth, the group with some of the highest rates of suicide and depression, and ensures that school can not be a safe place for them. But it's harm to all students needs to be recognized as well.

As the form email states, which I completely agree with:

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Morgan Stonecipher

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Scott Joyce
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 2:23 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mr. Scott Joyce

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Julie Kaufman
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 2:29 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality. Alaska has a long standing history of respecting all of our citizens. It's alarming to imagine an Alaska which relegates some people to second class status.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96. Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

Thank you for your time,
Julie Kaufman

Sincerely,
Ms Julie Kaufman
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Emily Orr <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 2:29 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105 sucks

HB 105 sucks and is stupid. Why can't "Big Government" stay out of our lives? Republicans are supposed to hate this sort of thing.

Sincerely,
Emily

Lindsey Causer

From: Heather Fernstrom <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 3:07 PM
To: House Education
Cc: Rep. DeLena Johnson
Subject: I oppose HB 105, I urge you to as well

Dear Esteemed Members of the House Education Committee,

I am a mother of two children in the Mat-Su Borough. The day I read about this proposal, my heart sank. A top priority for our state must be the safety and well-being of our children and HB 105 is headed in the exact opposite of that direction.

HB 105 has a number of problematic components, and should not move forward. Firstly, this proposal is sure to endanger the children most in need of it. By requiring an 'opt-in' approach to sex education (including how to identify abuse and consent), guardians who are also abusers can more easily continue to shield their victims from life-saving information. We are also likely to see a great reduction in the number of children learning this critical information, as we know from any other studies on opt-in versus opt-out participation.

Additionally, our existing laws and policies regarding sex education, such as Erin's Law, call for age-appropriate sex education to occur in our schools. This legislation was passed by a bipartisan majority and was created to help prevent and protect children from abuse. HB 105 directly contradicts these policies and puts children and youth in danger. Finally, this bill infringes on the rights of LGBTQIA+ children and youth, who have the right to control who they are 'outed' to; for a youth or child to decide not to disclose this information to their caregiver, it is usually a matter of safety. LGBTQIA+ are at higher risk of homelessness, as they may get kicked out of their homes after their guardians learn of their sexuality or gender identity.

Let's show Alaskan children and youth that we care about their safety and well-being. Please oppose HB 105.

Respectfully,
Heather Fernstrom

Lindsey Causer

From: Natalie Troy <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 3:25 PM
To: Rep. Andi Story
Cc: House Education
Subject: Public testimony on HB105

Good afternoon Representative Story,

My name is Natalie Troy. I currently work for the Alaska Council of School Administrators but I am writing to you on my own behalf, as a Juneau resident in opposition to the governor's bill HB105.

On gender neutral bathrooms: I grew up in North Carolina from 2009-2018. That state passed a law banning choice around public restrooms and lost an estimated \$3.7 billion according to the Associated Press due to businesses leaving the state in the ensuing controversy. While this bill only impacts schools, the lack of inclusion and acceptance around this idea remains and the cost to districts to construct separate bathrooms would also be something that would need to be attached to this bill or else create an unfunded mandate.

The information on the costs to businesses and impacts on the state economy can be found here: <https://apnews.com/article/north-carolina-economy-raleigh-ringo-starr-e6c7a15d2e16452c8dcbc2756fd67b44>

On parents' rights: if a parent wants to be involved in their child's education, they can always speak to the child's teacher or other staff at the school. I call schools across the state every day for work. Schools are busy places focused on the work of educating and sometimes staff can't speak right away, but if someone can't pick up, someone is always willing to take a message. If parents are concerned about their kids' education, they should speak to the people educating their children. Additionally, this committee has entertained a lot of discussion of the importance of education funding going into the classroom. When schools have to spend staff time creating permission slips and tracking down signatures on permission slips to be able to do their job and teach children, that is a waste of state money that should be going not only into the classroom but also to other important school roles like counselor, librarian, maintenance, and nutrition.

On gender, sex, and reproductive changes: students learn about gender the same way they learn about everything: from observing the world around them. From a very young age, we recognize that toys such as trucks and trains are associated more with masculinity and dresses and dolls more with femininity. We interact with children based on those gender roles. Whether you embrace those traditional roles or not, we understand what they are and react positively, negatively, or neutrally based on our own feelings and opinions around gender. Children pick up on those reactions from whoever they are in community with from before they even enter a classroom.

This is similar regarding sex and human reproduction. Children are learning about sex and reproduction in grades K-3 by observing the world around them. Some children even start puberty before the age of 8 in what is known as precocious puberty and experience physical changes around that that other children may pick up on. It's important that kids as young as 6 or 7 have an understanding of the physical changes their peers and siblings are going through as something natural that we should be able to speak to each other about if we choose, not something scary or secretive. Having to sign permission slips to discuss these things in all areas outside of abuse trainings just makes it harder for teachers and other school employees to deliver developmentally appropriate instruction to ensure students' health and well being.

Thank you for your support of public education in the state, Representative Story, and for the insightful and well-researched questions you bring to the full Committee. Thank you also to the full Committee for passing out HB 65.

Regards,
Natalie

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Gretchen Gordon
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 3:38 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, coworkers, and in my case: Family. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against. I am thankful every day for the worthy work of our state legislature. This bill is a worthy one.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is a hateful attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is encouraging and promoting willful, intentional hate and attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Gretchen Gordon

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Shannon Scott
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 4:07 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Shannon Scott

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Jennifer Bernard
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 4:10 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

Dear Representatives -- Please remember that you represent ALL Alaskans! LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. They are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers--in my case, a niece. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against. It's a basic human right.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Jennifer Bernard

Sincerely,
Ms. Jennifer Bernard

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Austin Williams
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 11:15 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mr. Austin Williams

Lindsey Causer

From: L F <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 11:17 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB105 - written testimony on the parental rights bill

Members of the House Education Committee;

My name is Linda File. I am testifying today on **House Bill 105, the parental rights bill**. I represent myself and my granddaughter who will begin kindergarten in the fall of 2024.

I am the child of a evangelical minister. Until 2000 my life was defined completely in that context, having been marinated continuously in the dogma recognizable in the parental rights bill now before this Committee.

The arguments contained in this bill comprise the foundational dogma of the evangelical mindset. These statements are the assumptions of those who *know with certainty and assurance that they are right*. Everyone else, particularly the secular public school system is wrong. And because they are right, they deserve to be dominant. There is no further discussion for those in this mindset.

Fortunately I had the privilege of attending public school and university where my longing for knowledge was fed and encouraged by many excellent teachers and professors. Libraries were my childhood lifeline and I was lucky to have parents who encouraged reading. Many children in the setting I was raised in are now confined to sectarian schools and religiously dominated home-school settings. This troubles me. I have witnessed several relatives raise their children with no traditional educational input, spending all their years in wholly parental driven home-school scenarios (a niece recently said that they are primarily watching movies as they drive the US in their van).

We now understand that parents do not in fact, own their children. Parental 'rights' do not expunge children of the Privacy Rights recognized in Alaska's Constitution as belonging to ALL the citizens of Alaska. *Children have an inherent right to a quality education, to knowledge, to choice, to personal agency, to not to be held in ownership by any parent*. The parent's role is one of guidance, protection, sustenance, all with compassion and understanding of the child's needs. This is basic human decency.

This bill is unnecessary and completely sectarian in purpose. There are curriculum reviews held regularly for concerned parents to attend in every school district. Principals are always open to hearing from concerned parents (my husband was a public school principal with an open door policy), teachers set aside time to talk to parents. I have never personally heard of a teacher in our District who spent any of their class time touting some personal agenda. *To accuse teachers of such is to malign the profession and to speculate nefariously some level of control and manipulation that does not, in fact, exist.*

My experience is that those who say they "own" their children are speaking the language of the abuser, whether they intend this or not. In this worldview some parents have caused egregious and unspeakable violations of the child. *Some have no one to turn to*. Projection is often the tool used by authoritarians to attempt to hypocritically accuse others of what they themselves are doing.

Do not subject Alaskans to the copycat "Florida" plan of creating some bogeyman where it does not exist. Do not pass the unnecessary and ill-advised HB 105 out of committee. We are better than this in Alaska.

Thank you;
Linda File

Lindsey Causer

From: Maureen Longworth <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 11:25 AM
To: House Education
Subject: No on HB 105

I am a retired Alaskan physician. In med school we learn that the main developmental issue teens face is questioning their normalcy as their bodies change and develop in ways they likely don't understand. One of my nephews, a strapping, handsome, tallest in his class quit the basketball team mid season because he was the first boy to get underarm hair and was too ashamed to shoot baskets in his sleeveless team uniform. Now he's going on 40. Has facial hair he wears proudly and continues to dress in stunning style even though his girlfriend is simple in hers.

Schools need to include diversity and acceptance so there is less psycho social turmoil not more!

When I was practicing medicine in Juneau for twenty years i repeatedly had people of all ages discuss their secret fears and concerns because our visits were confidential. Kids woke up from overdose attempts confiding they were afraid to tell parents they were gay so instead they OD'd.

HB 105 would increase the lack of safety kids need to be surrounded by to thrive.

All medical studies have proven that the healthiest communities are ones with equal acceptance, accessible accurate information and resources and no discrimination laws or policies singling out any group or individual based on gender, race, sexuality or sexual preference. So adopting HB 105 would be backwards for Alaska and only serve to worsen the health of our communities.

Please vote for health, not against it. Join the American Medical Association; American Academy of Family Physicians, Alaska Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy Of Pediatrics etc etc and block HB 105 and any bills that discriminate. We are the ones caring for your kids when they come thru our hospitals and clinics. Don't undermine what we are doing to save your children with laws that will increase their suicide risk.

Thank you for voting no. And please educate your colleagues and constituencies why this is your only healthy choice you can make on their behalf.

Maureen Longworth, MD
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Michele wasson
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 11:32 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Michele Wasson

Sincerely,
Mrs Michele wasson

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Mary King
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 11:37 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Mary King

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Janet Daley <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 11:40 AM
To: House Education
Cc: Rep. Ashley Carrick; Sen. Click Bishop
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear House Education Committee members and my own representatives,

I am in support of HB99 and SB 108. I am in complete opposition to HB 105/SB96.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality without exception. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are valued members of our community, whether they be family members, coworkers or friends. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they must be treated no differently than anyone else. There is NO basis for discrimination. I therefore urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

I am extremely concerned about and completely against Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96. Under the guise of parental involvement, it is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards LGBTQ+ students, trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of worth, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy and safe life. Not all parents provide the support needed by these youth and this bill may well mean that more kids will suffer harm because of it.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Janet Daley
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Annie Maliguine
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 11:56 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Annie Maliguine

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Meneka Thiru <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 12:00 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Testimony in opposition to HB 105

To the House Education Committee:

My name is Meneka Thiru and I am a resident of East Anchorage. I am writing on behalf of myself in opposition to HB 105. I encourage this committee to vote "no" on this bill.

I am a lifelong Alaskan and fully support the rights of LGBTQ+ youth in our state. This bill is self-sabotaging. It will undoubtedly lead to students leaving the state as soon as they graduate and it will encourage many parents to raise their children elsewhere. We complain so much about brain drain and a labor shortage but we cannot do the bare minimum to protect the rights of youth and parents to encourage them to stay here.

Additionally, I'm particularly concerned about the proposed amendment to AS 14.03.016 that would allow parents to remove their children from lessons covering topics related to sexual abuse, sexual assault, and dating violence. Living in a state where sexual violence is incredibly prevalent, it is essential for our students to learn how to protect themselves and when to seek help from a trusted adult. I grew up in the Alaska educational system and did not receive any guidance on the topic of sexual violence, which undoubtedly led to me accepting unhealthy relationship dynamics for far too long. I would not wish that experience on anyone and want to see Alaskan youth equipped with the tools to avoid those situations.

When there are so many other education issues this committee could be addressing, I'm indignant to see time wasted on harmful bills like this one. I encourage the committee to vote no on this bill and move on to more important topics.

Sincerely,
Meneka Thiru
99504

Lindsey Causer

From: Dawn Fitzpatrick <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 12:28 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Parents against HB 105

Hello-

I am the parent of two elementary aged children in the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District. I am strongly against bill HB 105.

First of all, it treats my child like they are my property instead of whole individual humans. It treats all children as if they have no rights of their own as children. My children will get to make decisions about who they are even if I disagree- this is respecting them as whole humans with their own rights.

Second, Bill HB 105 feels more like a way for ultra conservatives to control access for my child to important information in schools. I've always received appropriate notice of all activities at my children's schools. It seems like people are trying to make it very hard for my child to get real information at school by adding unnecessary steps to the school structure.

I ask legislators to respect children as whole humans with rights beyond their parents. I ask legislators to support great schools by not caving to ultra-conservative groups trying to weaponize schools and make teachers "the enemy". Please vote against HB 105, for my children and all the honorable children of the North. We're not the Lower 48. Leave all those political games in the Lower 48.

Thank you,
Dawn Fitzpatrick
FNSBSD Parent of Two

Lindsey Causer

From: Jennifer Marschke <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 1:20 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105

Hello.

I am writing to send my opposition for HB 105. As a teacher and parent to in the state of Alaska, I recognize how important sex education is in schools.

Passive consent of parents continues to be an obligation where parents can opt their child out of these classes.

The bill may also have a serious impact on our children's mental health and the state of Alaska is historically not ready to support children with mental health needs. In our own community we do not have providers for our children. It's disgusting to think that our legislature can approve such a bill without providing a safety net for our families impacted by it.

I hope that you turn to research, professionals, and data rather than subjective decisions when deciding how to vote on this bill. As an individual in Alaska, I am personally offended when an individual votes based on their opinion instead of facts.

Thank you.

--

Jennifer Marschke, MS, MAT

[REDACTED]



Lindsey Causer

From: Kim Kloecker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 9:46 AM
To: House Education
Subject: I STRONGLY Oppose HB 105

Dear House Education Committee,

I'm writing to express my vehement opposition to HB105. I would call in but I will be at my 2nd job- taken so I can help pay for out of state college for my trans son. College in a state where we feel he can be safe and be himself without constant attacks from people who deny his very existence.

The agony I went through as a parent watching my child struggle with mental health issues in his pre-teen years is reemerging now as fear over his safety in our home state and many parts of the country. It took a long struggle in counseling for him to realize what was so negatively impacting his mental health- the anxiety, depression, intrusive thoughts, self-harm-- all finally began subsiding as he started outing himself as trans and asking us to use his new name and pronouns. My son was always a straight-A student, in gifted, AP, and IB classes. School had always been his favorite place. He buried himself in his schoolwork and maintained his high grades but school became almost unbearable at times. On the surface his school was supportive of LGBTQ kids, including special accommodations for trans kids. However, certain individuals took it upon themselves to not follow the accommodating practices. There were also problems with substitute teachers deadnaming my son due to database issues. Due to COVID concerns, there were multiple substitute teachers daily. So my son's refuge became a dreaded place. Eventually, we were able to work with the principal and other staff to address the problems and life settled into that of a typical HS senior- college exams, applications, essays, and prom rather than anxiety and multiple meetings over names and pronouns. My son is now a pre-med major at a top-tier school on a huge merit award- a testament to his resilience and the support of family, counselors, and many individuals at his school.

To now threaten to take those same supportive systems away from other struggling kids is criminal. My son had the support of his family and could be out at home, however many children do not have that chance. Even my son came out at school first- to friends and teachers before gathering his courage to come out at home. To think that other children would be forcibly outed without their consent before they're ready is appalling. To not provide bathroom facilities for all students to feel safe while taking care of bodily necessities is appalling.

I am unhappily willing to provide more information about our struggles and successes in order to help defeat bills like this.

Sincerely, Kim

Kim Kloecker
[REDACTED]

Pronouns: [she/her/hers](#)

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Amanda Capitulo
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 9:53 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Amanda Capitulo

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Cassandra Windwalker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 10:06 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Windwalker's Testimony regarding HB 105

My name is Cassandra Windwalker, and I am an Alaskan resident living in Anchor Point on the Kenai Peninsula, and I am also a staunch Christian. I am testifying regarding my strong opposition to House Bill 105.

The governor and those who support this bill will turn Alaska into a dystopian state reminiscent of Nazi Germany or modern-day Russia, a world in which teachers become informants and anyone who knows the truth about a person's identity is a potential enemy, holding what in some cases is the very real threat of life-or-death over their head. Republicans once touted themselves as the party of small government and individual liberty, but this bill specifically makes some people's very existence non-permissible, it brings the state into the most intimate of family discussions, and it reaches the government's hands into the panties of our children.

The governor likes to call this a Parental Rights Bill, but parents in Alaska already hold almost unassailable control over their children. We have one of the highest percentages in the country for homeschool students, and Alaska doesn't just make it easy for parents, we help fund it. These students can be almost completely isolated in some cases, and this bill would turn whatever extra-curricular activities or sports they are allowed to join into one more nightmare to navigate rather than an outlet and opportunity for growth.

Even students attending public schools in Alaska can be very isolated. A significant portion of our population lives in rural areas, and access to internet and other communications is often limited. House Bill 105 turns school into one more prison cell with tattling guards and redacted books instead of an open window onto the world.

Alaska is the second-worst state in the country for child abuse and the third-worst for domestic abuse. The governor and his supporters want to take the children they are already miserably failing to protect and make their lives immeasurably more dangerous and more wretched. This isn't about protecting children in the least. Children don't need to be protected from knowledge and learning. Teachers don't need to be forced to transform from instructors and mentors into snitches and rats and hoarders of outlawed information. And parents in Alaska definitely don't need more control over their children. With the control they have now, we know that 1 out of every 7 children in Alaska will be sexually abused before they turn twelve. Governor Dunleavy doesn't even want those children educated on how to protect themselves and what to do if the worst happens. And he wants to turn the very people who might be their last chance for help into just one more adult who can't be trusted.

HB 105 is a fundamental threat to the safety of all our children, not just LGBTQ children, and an undisguised attack on the existence of whatever Americans Dunleavy and his cabal find uncomfortable to acknowledge as legitimately human and created by God. I urge you to stand beside our children and our Constitution and let these dangerous fascists know we will not allow them to take us back to the Dark Ages or transform us into a Morality Police state. Thank you.

Cassondra Windwalker

Do not make me a home; I cannot abide it.



Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Carmen Bydalek
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 10:18 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms Carmen Bydalek
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Cheryl Lovegreen
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 10:29 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mrs Cheryl Lovegreen
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Jocelyn Young
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 10:41 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Jocelyn Young

Lindsey Causer

From: Betsy Turner-Bogren <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 10:45 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Opposition to HB 105/SB 96

Dear Members of the Alaska House Education Committee,

I am writing to urge you to vote against any proposed bill that would put LGBTQ+ students at risk, including HB 105/SB 96, the so-called "Parental Rights in Education" bill proposed by Governor Dunleavy.

I am a former president of the Fairbanks Council of PTAs, former Legislative Vice President of the Alaska PTA, and actively volunteered for 15 years in the Fairbanks public elementary, middle schools, and highschools. From working with a wide range of students and their parents, I know how vital it is that all students have the full support of their community. Our future depends on the wellbeing of our students—all of our students. HB 105/SB 96, if passed, would send the extremely harmful message that we do not value all students or all families. HB 105/SB 96 is a very bad piece of legislation.

As you know, LGBTQ+ youth are some of the most vulnerable members of our society, and they face unique challenges and barriers to success that can be exacerbated by discrimination and stigma.

Unfortunately, bills that limit the rights and protections of LGBTQ+ students, including those related to school policies and bathroom/locker access across our country have been proposed and passed. In Alaska, these bills would send a harmful message to LGBTQ+ youth that they are not valued or accepted in our communities, and they would put their health, safety, and well-being at risk.

Research has consistently shown that LGBTQ+ youth experience higher rates of mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Discrimination and stigma can exacerbate these issues and create additional barriers to success, including lower academic achievement, higher absenteeism, and social isolation.

As legislators, you have the power and responsibility to create policies and practices that promote equality, justice, and safety for all students, including those who identify as LGBTQ+. I urge you to use this power wisely and to vote against any bill that would put these students at risk.

Instead, I urge you to support policies and practices that create safe and inclusive environments for all Alaskans, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This can involve adopting inclusive sex education requirements and anti-bullying policies that specifically address LGBTQ+ harassment, ensuring that school staff receive training on LGBTQ+ issues, and providing resources and support for LGBTQ+ students who may be struggling.

This also includes supporting legislation like HB 99, which would work to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity or expression across our state.

By taking these steps, we can help ensure that all students, and all Alaskans, have the opportunity to succeed and thrive, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. Thank you for your attention to these important issues.

Respectfully,
Betsy Turner-Bogren
Ester, Alaska

Lindsey Causer

From: Len Kamerling <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 10:42 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105

Dear Legislative Committee Members,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 105, Governor Dunleavy's Parental Rights bill. This bill is advertised as a parental rights bill but its real intent is to discriminate against one of the most vulnerable groups of young people in Alaska - LGBTQ individuals. This bill is unnecessary and it is cruel. Clearly, it mirrors other right-wing political legislation to discriminate against LGBTQ students, such as the "don't say gay" bill in Florida.

Laws that limit the rights and protections of LGBTQ students, including those related to school policies and the so called "bathroom access rules" would send a harmful and disparaging message that these students are not valued or welcome in Alaska schools. It would certainly put their mental health and safety at risk.

We have important work to do in Alaska creating safe and inclusive environments for all Alaskans, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity. I urge you to oppose HB 105.

Sincerely,

Leonard Kamerling
Fairbanks, AK

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Lorraina Liss
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 11:01 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

AS A GAY ALASKAN, LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are your friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, we should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Lorraina Liss

Lindsey Causer

From: Jason Norris <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 11:09 AM
To: House Education
Subject: House Bill 105

All,

I respectfully write today in opposition to House Bill 105. It is divisive and needlessly inflames and politicizes our public schools. It claims to be for "parental rights" but it clearly does not benefit parents who want our schools to be more inclusive, more open, and more welcoming. What good is it to me to give me the right to make our schools less open, inclusive, and welcoming when I desire the direct opposite of that? What good is it to give the right to be more hateful when I want less hate in our schools? What good is it to give me the right to make our schools more discriminatory when I desire for them to be less so? To drive home my point, this is not a parental bill of rights. This is a bill of rights for hateful parents and they should not be further empowered to spread hatred within our schools. They are free to raise their children as they see fit. They are not free, nor should they be, to transform our schools to reflect their hatred.

I close with a simple request. Vote down this bill.

Respectfully,
Jason Norris
Anchorage, Alaska

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Sarah Nash
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 8:24 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Sarah Nash

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of David Leslie
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 12:58 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

I'm a queer Inupiaq in Fairbanks. I'm also on the Pride Committee for ASEA 52, and a member of the newly formed Pride At Work Alaska Chapter, recognized by the AFL-CIO.

I started my LGBT activism when I was the Vice President of the Lathrop High School Gay Straight Alliance from 2004 to 2006. Since then, I've seen much progress made in our state, but now I fear we will lose protections for our queer community, and it will cost us our safety and lives, along with fellow queer workers, and also straight, cisgender workers who's families and children are LGBT and chose to move to another state.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mr. David Leslie

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Chelsy Maller <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 9:02 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Chelsy Maller

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Jenna Hooley
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 9:16 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Miss Jenna Hooley

Lindsey Causer

From: Summer Koester <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 9:20 AM
To: House Education; laura.stidolph@alaska.gov
Subject: Oppose HB 105

As a teacher in the Juneau School District, I strongly oppose HB 105 because many trans children do not feel safe disclosing their true identity with their families. I believe it should be the child's choice to make the decision how they identify & teachers should respect that choice.

This bill assumes that all of Alaska's children come from safe homes, which our stats for child abuse and domestic clearly highlight is Not the Case. This bill endangers children. Full stop.

Thanks for listening!

Summer Koester
Montessori Borealis

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Liza Hasan <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 12:58 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Miss Liza Hasan

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Julia Bedell
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 9:21 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life. Moreover, teaching kids about consent, boundaries, and identity at a young age is paramount to fostering respect within this diverse city and state. I'm disgusted by Gov. Dunleavy's bill—it does not reflect the community I have come to know and love.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Julia Bedell

Lindsey Causer

From: Joshua Knicely <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 9:25 AM
To: House Education
Subject: I Oppose HB 105

Hello House Education Committee,
I hope y'all are doing well.

I'm e-mailing to express my incredible distaste for House Bill 105, the Governor's "Don't Be Gay" bill. This is a blatant attack on LGBT+ youth and the LGBT+ community in general. Every US citizen should be protected under the law. Why shouldn't the LGBT+ community and youth be included in that?

Further, this kind of (frankly) idiotic legislation is going to drive away the skilled workers this state needs in order to develop its economy. I am one of those skilled workers. I will receive my doctorate in geophysics this summer. I currently have a job lined up for here in Fairbanks that pays more than double the best pay I have ever received (\$71K/year). I've already accepted the position, and I'm considering turning it down because of the continued attacks against the LGBT+ community that I have seen this state make. I will not contribute to the economic development of a state that does not welcome and protect my friends and family. There are many many more like me that will choose to abandon this state if you pass HB 105 and choose to abandon us.

Thank you for your time,
Joshua Knicely
UAF Ph.D Candidate

Lindsey Causer

From: John & Jo Ann Gruber <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 9:30 AM
To: House Education
Cc: Senate Education
Subject: HB105 - Sex/Reproduction Education; Schools

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to urge you to vote against HB105.

Alaska has the highest rate of sexual assault against children in our country. We should want to give our children the knowledge and skills necessary for their good health and safety. Most decent Alaskans agree that sex education should be age-appropriate and medically accurate. We should want them to learn about healthy relationships and consent along with developing effective communication skills.

I understand that this bill was sponsored under the guise of safeguarding parental rights in a child's education, but it seems like it is Alaska's version of Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill with manufactured issues designed to appeal to individuals with a particular political and personal ideology. It also seems to be an attempt to weaken or break our public education system.

If this bill is passed, it will cost Alaska far more than the \$6,000 listed in the fiscal note. It will encourage frivolous lawsuits against our school districts. In addition, it places additional unnecessary burdens on our public school system. It's utterly ridiculous to require a school to get written permission to call a child named William "Bill" or "Billy".

More importantly, this bill does not create safe or inclusive environments for all Alaskan children. As elected officials, you have the responsibility to create policies that ensure justice, safety, and equality for all children and young people, including those who may identify as LGBTQ+.

Please do not support HB105. Use your position of power for good and ensure that you allow all Alaska's children to have the opportunity to thrive and succeed in life regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide public testimony on HB105.

Respectfully,

Jo Ann Gruber
Eagle River, AK

Lindsey Causer

From: Denise Cotten <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 9:40 AM
To: House Education
Subject: I Oppose HB 105

Good Morning.

I am writing to plead with you to oppose HB105. As a parent and educator, I cannot fathom how this bill would be seen as anything but harmful for LGBTQ+ youth. Putting the restrictions and requirements of this bill in place would create an unwelcoming, at best, and unsafe environment for these students where learning would be difficult, if not impossible. Additionally, it would cause potential danger in their homes as, unfortunately, not all LGBTQ+ youth have supportive parents or guardians. Why would you choose to support something that actively puts youth in harm's way?

Please do not support HB 105 and speak out against it, for the sake of our youth!

Thank you,
Denise Cotten

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Naya Kramer
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 12:11 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Naya Kramer

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Molly Nusbaum <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 12:11 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Miss Molly Nusbaum

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Rebecca Vano <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 6:22 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB105

I am writing in opposition to HB105. As a parent, lifelong Alaskan, community member, former foster parent, and teacher, I am extremely invested in our education system, the rights of parents, and the health of our young people. I want a better community for my son, his friends, all my students, and the rest of our Alaskan youth. This bill would be devastatingly destructive for many young people, crushing for our already overburdened educators, and would unempower these same teachers from providing the support and quality education that our students need. My son, currently a senior at West High, has had some incredible impromptu conversations in classes, throughout his years, through our school system, that have helped support him through his most challenging years in ways that he sometimes would not accept from me. Many of these conversations contain nothing extreme in views, but because they relate to gender and sexuality in broad ways, they would need opt in prior notice, according to this recent proposed law (consider that much of a good classic education, like reading Romeo and Juliet, for instance, leads to these kinds of discussions). Our current system provides parents the opportunity to keep up to date on what is happening in their child's education and experience at school. We have many ways for parents to opt out, to limit what their child is exposed to, and, ultimately, there is huge access to homeschool for parents who do not believe in a broad public education for their child. However, the students I most worry about are those who are marginalized, and those without caring parents at home. With stricter limits on what topics can be addressed at school, many of these students will lack basic understanding of health and sexuality, not because their parents' religious or political convictions lead them to opt out, but because they simply won't access the paperwork to opt in. While I certainly respect the right of parents who choose to limit how these topics are broached with their children, I believe that new restrictive legislation would be destructive to public education as a whole and would do a disservice to many many more children than it would serve. Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further service as you wrestle with this bill.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Vano
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Kacy Herron <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 7:00 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Dr. Kacy Herron

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Peter Hoepfner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 7:05 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Opposition to HB 105

Thank you to the House Education committee for taking testimony on this HB 105, which is a thinly veiled anti-transgender bill.

This bill attacks people.

This bill does no good.

This bill is not a solution. Simply banning an item, a faulty solution to a problem that does not exist.

Banning issues are not a solution. A solution looks at all sides, and comes to a agreeable solution.

I oppose the oppression of others that comes with this bill. Why does the state want to oppress people of alaska?? -Particularly a subset who are verbally harassed at 86.3%, and actually experience physical violence at 25.7% just because of who they are, and this subset has a very high suicide rate... does the legislature want to INCREASE these effects on students???

Remember that school administrators are parents, teachers are parents, school board members are parents. School districts ENCOURAGE parents to be involved and engaged with their students academics, as much as they are engaged in their students athletics.

School district engage in "Stretegic Planning", which brings community members in to see where the community wants education to move forward.

School districts encourage parents in the PTA.

School districts encourage parents to come twice a year to parent teacher conferences, even serving food, having drawings to further encourage parents to be engaged.

Schools WANT parents engaged.

Some IMPORTANT statistics to see and understand before voting on this bill, and the harm that will come from this bill.

Statistics from the national Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS):

Harassment and Assault at School

The vast majority of LGBTQ students (86.3%) experienced harassment or assault based on personal characteristics, including sexual orientation, gender expression, gender, actual or perceived religion, actual or perceived race and ethnicity, and actual or perceived disability.

- 68.7% of LGBTQ students experienced verbal harassment (e.g., called names or threatened) at school based on sexual orientation, 56.9% based on gender expression, and 53.7% based on gender.
- 25.7% of LGBTQ students were physically harassed (e.g., pushed or shoved) in the past year based on sexual orientation, 21.8% based on gender expression, and 22.2% based on gender.
- 11.0% of LGBTQ students were physically assaulted (e.g., punched, kicked, injured with a weapon) in the past year based on sexual orientation, 9.5% based on gender expression, and 9.3% based on gender.
- A sizable number of LGBTQ students were also bullied or harassed at school based on other characteristics – 36.5% based on actual or perceived disability, 23.1% based on actual or perceived religion, and 21.4% based on actual or perceived race or ethnicity.
- 44.9% of LGBTQ students experienced electronic harassment in the past year (via text messages or postings on Facebook), often known as cyberbullying.

- 58.3% of LGBTQ students were sexually harassed (e.g., unwanted touching or sexual remarks) in the past year at school.

Effects of Victimization

- LGBTQ students who experienced higher levels of victimization based on their sexual orientation:
 - Were nearly three times as likely to have missed school in the past month than those who experienced lower levels (57.2% vs. 21.7%);
 - Had lower grade point averages (GPAs) than students who were less often harassed (3.03 vs. 3.34);
 - Were nearly twice as likely to report that they did not plan to pursue any post-secondary education (e.g., college or trade school) than those who experienced lower levels (9.9% vs. 5.8%);
 - Were nearly twice as likely to have been disciplined at school (47.0% vs. 26.7%); and
 - Had lower self-esteem and school belonging and higher levels of depression.
- LGBTQ students who experienced higher levels of victimization based on their gender expression:
 - Were almost three times as likely to have missed school in the past month than those who experienced lower levels (59.0% vs. 21.8%);
 - Had lower GPAs than students who were less often harassed (2.98 vs. 3.36);

xx

- Were twice as likely to report that they did not plan to pursue any post-secondary education (e.g., college or trade school; 11.1% vs. 5.4%);
- Were more likely to have been disciplined at school (46.8% vs. 27.2%), and
- Had lower self-esteem and school belonging and higher levels of depression.
- Of the LGBTQ students who indicated that they were considering dropping out of school, a sizable percentage (42.2%) indicated that it was related to the harassment they faced at school.

Effects of Discrimination

- Compared to LGBTQ students who did not experience LGBTQ-related discrimination at school, those who experienced discrimination:
 - Were nearly three times as likely to have missed school in the past month (44.1% vs. 16.4%);
 - Had lower GPAs (3.14 vs. 3.39);
 - Were more likely to have been disciplined at school (40.2% vs. 22.6%); and
 - Had lower self-esteem and school belonging and higher levels of depression.
- Of the LGBTQ students who indicated that they were considering dropping out of school, a sizable percentage (30.1%) indicated that it was related to the hostile climate created by gendered school policies and practices

https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/NSCS19-FullReport-032421-Web_0.pdf

Thumbed in from my iPhone

Lindsey Causer

From: Peter Hoepfner <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 7:12 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Re: Opposition to HB 105

And I forgot to add my name.

Peter Hoepfner

Father of two daughters who have attended the public schools in Cordova Alaska, an AMAZING public school system, where parents are engaged with the schools.

Thumbed in from my iPhone

On Mar 30, 2023, at 11:05 AM, Peter Hoepfner <hoepfner@alaskan.com> wrote:

Thank you to the House Education committee for taking testimony on this HB 105, which is a thinly veiled anti-transgender bill.

This bill attacks people.

This bill does no good.

This bill is not a solution. Simply banning an item, a faulty solution to a problem that does not exist. Banning issues are not a solution. A solution looks at all sides, and comes to a agreeable solution.

I oppose the oppression of others that comes with this bill. Why does the state want to oppress people of alaska??

-Particularly a subset who are verbally harassed at 86.3%, and actually experience physical violence at 25.7% just because of who they are, and this subset has a very high suicide rate... does the legislature want to INCREASE these effects on students???

Remember that school administrators are parents, teachers are parents, school board members are parents. School districts ENCOURAGE parents to be involved and engaged with their students academics, as much as they are engaged in their students athletics.

School district engage in "Stretegic Planning", which brings community members in to see where the community wants education to move forward.

School districts encourage parents in the PTA.

School districts encourage parents to come twice a year to parent teacher conferences, even serving food, having drawings to further encourage parents to be engaged.

Schools WANT parents engaged.

Some IMPORTANT statistics to see and understand before voting on this bill, and the harm that will come from this bill.

Statistics from the national Youth Risk Behavioral Survey (YRBS):

Harassment and Assault at School

The vast majority of LGBTQ students (86.3%) experienced harassment or assault based on personal characteristics, including sexual orientation, gender expression, gender, actual or perceived religion, actual or perceived race and ethnicity, and actual or perceived disability.

- 68.7% of LGBTQ students experienced verbal harassment (e.g., called names or threatened) at school based on sexual orientation, 56.9% based on gender expression, and 53.7% based on gender.
- 25.7% of LGBTQ students were physically harassed (e.g., pushed or shoved) in the past year based on sexual orientation, 21.8% based on gender expression, and 22.2% based on gender.
- 11.0% of LGBTQ students were physically assaulted (e.g., punched, kicked, injured with a weapon) in the past year based on sexual orientation, 9.5% based on gender expression, and 9.3% based on gender.
- A sizable number of LGBTQ students were also bullied or harassed at school based on other characteristics – 36.5% based on actual or perceived disability, 23.1% based on actual or perceived religion, and 21.4% based on actual or perceived race or ethnicity.
- 44.9% of LGBTQ students experienced electronic harassment in the past year (via text messages or postings on Facebook), often known as cyberbullying.
- 58.3% of LGBTQ students were sexually harassed (e.g., unwanted touching or sexual remarks) in the past year at school.

Effects of Victimization

- LGBTQ students who experienced higher levels of victimization based on their sexual orientation:
 - Were nearly three times as likely to have missed school in the past month than those who experienced lower levels (57.2% vs. 21.7%);
 - Had lower grade point averages (GPAs) than students who were less often harassed (3.03 vs. 3.34);
 - Were nearly twice as likely to report that they did not plan to pursue any post-secondary education (e.g., college or trade school) than those who experienced lower levels (9.9% vs. 5.8%);
 - Were nearly twice as likely to have been disciplined at school (47.0% vs. 26.7%); and
 - Had lower self-esteem and school belonging and higher levels of depression.
- LGBTQ students who experienced higher levels of victimization based on their gender expression:
 - Were almost three times as likely to have missed school in the past month than those who experienced lower levels (59.0% vs. 21.8%);
 - Had lower GPAs than students who were less often harassed (2.98 vs. 3.36);

xx

- Were twice as likely to report that they did not plan to pursue any post-secondary education (e.g., college or trade school; 11.1% vs. 5.4%);
- Were more likely to have been disciplined at school (46.8% vs. 27.2%), and
- Had lower self-esteem and school belonging and higher levels of depression.
- Of the LGBTQ students who indicated that they were considering dropping out of school, a sizable percentage (42.2%) indicated that it was related to the harassment they faced at school.

Effects of Discrimination

- Compared to LGBTQ students who did not experience LGBTQ-related discrimination at school, those who experienced discrimination:
 - Were nearly three times as likely to have missed school in the past month (44.1% vs. 16.4%);
 - Had lower GPAs (3.14 vs. 3.39);
 - Were more likely to have been disciplined at school (40.2% vs. 22.6%); and
 - Had lower self-esteem and school belonging and higher levels of depression.
- Of the LGBTQ students who indicated that they were considering dropping out of school, a sizable percentage (30.1%) indicated that it was related to the hostile climate created by gendered school policies and practices

https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/2021-04/NSCS19-FullReport-032421-Web_0.pdf

Thumbed in from my iPhone

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Olivia Edwards
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 7:31 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Olivia Edwards

Lindsey Causer

From: Michael Szidloski <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 7:55 AM
To: House Education
Subject: HB105

To the members of the House Education Committee:

HB105 is a copycat bill promoting failed and failing issues from other states. This bill would normalize litigation against our schools, when they are already floundering with lack of support. It would add a tremendous fiscal burden to our schools, causing a chilling effect on education in order to attempt to not fall into litigation. Parental rights are already accounted for in the current system we have, this bill instead opens up the door to concerted attacks on our public education system by privately funded groups with a political agenda.

We already have trouble attaining and retaining teachers and administration for our public schools in this state. This bill would make it even more difficult to provide an education for all Alaskans, as is our civic and constitutional duty.

It would be a far more effective use of this committee's (and the people of Alaska's) time, to instead focus on HB99, too better support our diverse student population. I would hope that that use of time would factor into the committee's decision.

Regardless of where you stand on "culture war" issues, this bill will be detrimental to public education, and was only remitted by the Governor as his audition to his party apparatus on the national level. Alaska is unique, why we would be following suit to outside interests boggles my mind. Yet here we are, wasting our time with an outsider interest groups concerns, that directly conflict with Alaska's culture of respecting other's privacy. I urge you to table HB105, and instead focus on legislation that will have a more valuable impact for Alaska.

Respectfully,

~Michael J Szidloski, II

--

One day posterity will remember, this strange era, these strange times, when ordinary common honesty was called courage. -- Yevgeny Yevtushenko

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Scott Venable
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 8:08 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality is human equality. We need this protection in place to prevent the lower 48 and their weird, un-Alaskan, un-American values to stay in the crazy think tanks of far right cynics who only care about votes regardless of who it hurts.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 does not represent the values of Alaskans nor the freedom loving ways this state purports to care about. Where is the small government values he runs on? How does this help anyone? It is only designed to hurt.

Besides, all these bills do is dog whistle to fascists that we are ok with getting rid of a whole section of our population. And we had a whole world war about us not being for these kinds of genocides. Getting rid of trans people won't work, and even if it did, who's next after the trans people? Maybe you?

Do. Better.

Sincerely,
Mr Scott Venable
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Julia Bovee
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 8:11 AM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Julia Bovee

Lindsey Causer

From: Leah Berman Williams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 8:32 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Opposed to HB105

Dear Alaska Legislators —

I am a parent. I have two children currently attending public high school in Fairbanks. I am writing in **strong opposition to House Bill 105.**

Many Alaskan children have parents who protect them and care for them and who respect their child's growing sense of autonomy and development of an identity separate from that of their parents.

Some Alaskan children do not have that kind of parents. Some Alaskan children have parents who would abuse them, or throw them out of the house, if they discovered that their child was using a name or pronouns that the parents didn't approve of.

All Alaskan children should be able to have school be a safe space. They should be able to trust their teachers to protect them from their abusive parents. HB 105 would mean that children cannot trust their teachers to respect them and their identity, and they cannot trust their teachers to protect them.

The Alaska I want to live in is a state where people can be who they want to be, and where the government respects the privacy and autonomy of all of its citizens, even if they're not old enough to vote. The Alaska I want to live in is one where the government protects its children, rather than setting children up to be bullied and abused by the very people who should be protecting them.

Vote against HB 105.

Sincerely,
Leah Berman Williams
.....
Leah Berman Williams
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Gordon Williams <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 8:35 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB105

Hi

I am writing today to urge you *not* to support HB105, which *claims* in the summary to be about “parental rights in education” but is clearly designed to punish gay, lesbian, and transgender youth, and the teachers who interact with them. There is abundant evidence that children’s sexual orientation and expression are not things that they are socialized into, or can be meaningfully socialized out of. Instead, the end result of laws such as that being proposed here are to out children who are not ready to come out, or putting inappropriate pressure and attention on children who are suffering other kinds of social or emotional difficulties that have nothing to do with sexual orientation or identification. At best, such a law will result in more children becoming homeless (because the parents exercising their rights will kick them out of their homes), or at worst, more children committing suicide because of the stress of having been outed to disapproving parents over the suspicions of busy-bodies in the schools or teachers fearing fines or loss of employment where normally they would have the good sense to keep their suspicions to themselves.

This law is reckless. This law is stupid. This law will result in significant harm done to children who are having a hard enough time in this society as it is. Neither the rod nor the lash nor prayer will “cure” a child who is transgender or homosexual. All this kind of a bill does is interfere with their education and their lives, and treat them as the *property* of their parents, not people in their own right.

I’m not gay, and I’m not transgender, but I know and love enough of them and have lost enough of them to depression and suicide over the years because of impact the kind of people who think laws like this are a good idea have had on them to know when someone is coming after them and intends to harm them. One day soon, people will look back on the people who proposed laws like this and despise them the way anyone of good conscious does the white people who spat on black children as they entered schools during desegregation.

Shame on you if you support this law, and God protect the children you are putting in harms way by even allowing it to come up for debate at all.

best wishes,
Gordon Williams
Fairbanks, Alaska

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Marissa Palmer
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 8:35 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96. This is a terrible bill, and not what Alaska needs. We need an increase to the BSA, not this BS bill.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Marissa Palmer

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Jonathon Borstad
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 8:39 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mr. Jonathon Borstad
[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: Rebecca Gaguine <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 9:04 PM
To: House Education
Subject: HB 105

This bill is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Please protect our most vulnerable youth and stand up for trans students.

Rebecca Gaguine

Lindsey Causer

From: Jenny-Marie Stryker <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 9:15 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Opposition to HB105

Dear Honorable Members of the House Education Committee,

I write to you deeply opposed to House Bill 105. I'm a constituent in Rep Mina and Sen Dunbar's district.

This bill would put students at risk. I have experienced the safe harbor that teachers and educators can create—we can all agree that they work tirelessly to support our kids growing.

By forcing a teacher to tell the parents of a student about the student's gender identity, you are inserting government oversight where it should not be, and you risk harming the safe haven that schools can create.

I encourage you to not move this bill forward.

Thank you,
Jenny-Marie

--

[REDACTED]
pronouns: she/her/hers

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Katie Franciosi
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 10:02 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Ms. Katie Franciosi

[REDACTED]

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Leon Jaimes
<[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 10:47 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are an asset to our communities and our state.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's unconscionable HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. They're children. They deserve so much better. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to vehemently oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mx. Leon Jaimes

Lindsey Causer

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of Rena Michaud <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 10:48 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Please Pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality and Oppose HB 105/SB96

Dear Alaska House Education Committee,

Please pass HB 99/SB 108: LGBTQ+ Equality and oppose HB 105/SB96, Governor Dunleavy's attack on LGBTQ+ youth.

LGBTQ+ Alaskans deserve equality, period. LGBTQ+ Alaskans are our friends, neighbors, family, and coworkers. When it comes to being able to earn a living, having a place to live, or being served by a business or government office, they should be treated like anyone else and not be discriminated against.

I urge you to pass HB 99/SB108: LGBTQ+ Equality.

Governor Dunleavy's HB 105/SB96 is an attack on LGBTQ+ youth and will undoubtedly increase bullying, harassment, and stigmatization towards trans students in particular. Through this bill, Dunleavy is attacking Alaska students' sense of safety, making it extremely difficult for LGBTQ+ kids to live healthy and safe lives. All kids deserve to be safe at school. Trans youth should be treated with dignity and respect and should have the opportunity to live a healthy life.

This would also endanger victims of abuse further by taking away access to safe adults to seek help from at school. Physical and sexual abuse is already too wide spread on Alaska, we need to be helping students not enabling unsafe adults which can be parents or guardians to control school safe spaces.

To protect all students' privacy and health, I urge you to oppose HB 105/SB96.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Rena Michaud

Lindsey Causer

From: B.R. Swenson <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2023 11:51 PM
To: House Education
Subject: Testimony against HB 105

Co-Chair Allard, Co-Chair Ruffridge, & Members Himschoot, McCormick, McKay, Prax, & Story of the House Education Committee,

I urge you not to support HB 105.

I understand there is a desperate need to keep parents involved in public schools, under the state budget crisis and trends of homeschooling and the desire for private or charter Christian schools. Scarcity pushes us to sacrifice. But we cannot sacrifice Alaska children so vulnerable to abuse, trans and nonbinary children. Abused and discriminated against children do not have equal opportunity for education. When it comes to equality, it should not be one way at one school or school district and another way somewhere else, because some adults are uninformed about the mistreatment LGBTQ+ children suffer and child abuse generally, or they believe that being transgender is an "ideology." That is not equality.

Dr. Deena Bishop, educational advisor to Governor Dunleavy, called Erin's Law and Bree's Law parental rights legislation. Parental rights are nothing new, she testified on 3/29. I remember the passing of those bills. Erin Merryn doesn't travel the country proposing a "parental rights law," she advocates for children's safety. She proposes that information be given directly to kids, knowing as a CSA survivor that CSA is common and the overwhelming majority of children are hurt by people they know, including manipulative family members. The program protects against sexual abuse by either preventing it or helping abused children disclose. Erin's Law was not introduced with an opt-out originally. It was intended to be mandatory. That was added and Mike Dunleavy, a senator at the time, was proud of that. Not everyone was happy about it. Parental opt-out for a sexual abuse prevention program does not help a child who is, for example, being sexually abused by one parent and neglected by the other. I know this because I am a CSA survivor.

Mandatory reporting, everyone's saved! When I was 12 being sexually abused at home, school staff noticed my depression without reaching out to me, the principal had a meeting with my bystander parent, the principal suggested I get counseling, my parent made excuses to the principal about why I seemed depressed then did nothing, and no further outreach was taken by school staff for me. Then my abusive parents homeschooled me from then on. Homeschooling was just another way to control me and cover up the abuse. My mother, who does love me, failed me, then the school system failed me. I have hoped that since Erin's Law it's better now.

Content warning for psychological abuse associated with child sexual abuse by parent:

My abuser didn't only sexually abuse me. He wanted me to act happy all the time and never disagree with him, to fit his perverted fantasy of a "soul-mate." He wanted my body to look a certain way - my hair length, my body weight. I couldn't be myself. When I didn't act happy enough while he abused me, when I didn't submit as often, he worried that I was "becoming a lesbian." He took over my body and tried to control who I was and how my entire life went. Any of this sound familiar? It's not the same as what gender nonconforming children suffer by rejecting family members, but similar.

No matter how exactly abuse is perpetrated, what's at the core of it is control.

What does this extra vulnerable group of people suffer? Enough about me. This bill specifies gender identity; it most affects people whose gender identities vary. I am sharing the same 2011 study of 6,450 trans and gender nonconforming people that I did in my widespread email, this time focusing not on school experiences but family life - especially pages

88, 94, 100-102. 57% of respondents suffered some form of family rejection (88), at some point in their lives. 40% of respondents said parents or other family members did not speak to them or spend time with them because of who they are (94). Imagine that. Family rejection was associated with 3x the frequency of homelessness and almost double the rate of suicidality than those with accepting families. Family violence was associated with 4x the rate of homelessness and double the rate of suicide attempts (88). There were even more associated negative outcomes over their lifetimes, too. See https://transequality.org/sites/default/files/docs/resources/NTDS_Report.pdf

The chance of an affirming family is not enough. There must also be policies on a grander scale as support. The state has a duty and interest in protecting children. By policies I don't mean only training school staff to recognize abuse (especially mental injury, but as it presents in gender nonconforming youth https://dfcs.alaska.gov/ocs/Pages/childrensjustice/reporting/know_mi.aspx) and report it.

But let's imagine that almost every trans, nonbinary and other gender nonconforming child in or that will be in Alaska has an affirming family and that the hypothetical rare abused kids will be immediately protected by school staff and the state because this bill just doesn't hurt these kids because all those loving, informed parents will let their kids be themselves and there's mandatory reporting. But the state won't fully let the kids be themselves.

HB 105 restricts sex education, human reproduction education, or human sexuality education for any child under 4th grade, except for sexual abuse prevention under Erin's Law. Doing this implies the belief that LGBTQ+ children don't exist at even earlier ages than that and the fear they'll be "indoctrinated" or "brainwashed," as if those topics can never be taught age-appropriately. If a younger child shows cross-gendered behaviors and other kids bully them for it, that child might not know how to talk about the bullying and start to feel shame from the bullying, barriers to reporting the abuse. It's the same concept as teaching kids sexual abuse prevention - so they know what abuse is, how to respond to it, and how to disclose it. Kids younger than 4th grade need supportive policies from the state.

Restricting restroom and locker room use to biological sex, therefore banning trans, nonbinary, and other gender nonconforming children from ever using the facilities they identify with under a physical safety and privacy policy implies that these children are inherently a danger to other children, that they are bogeychildren, predators. Or that so many children will pretend to be trans or nonbinary to gain access to others, that these children are mostly frauds. Affirmation has been shown to be healthiest for these children. They need supportive policies for restroom and locker room use in some way. Not their own privacy violated and physical safety endangered by forcing them into facilities of the gender they do not identify with, because they do suffer higher rates of bullying than cisgender children (see <https://www.hrc.org/news/new-cdc-data-shows-lgbtq-youth-are-more-likely-to-be-bullied-than-straight-cisgender-youth>).

-Beth Swenson
Kenai Peninsula Borough

Extra information on child sexual abuse:

2020 reported felony sex offenses in Alaska:

Of victims up to 10 years old, 55% of suspects were family members, the majority.

Of relationships between suspect and victim among family members, the most common was parent-child (including stepchild) at 42%. The secondmost common relationship was "other" (any other than sibling, stepsibling, grandparent) at 33.6%.

Of victims 11 to 17 years old, 28% of suspects were family members.

Of relationships between suspect and victim among family members, the most common was also parent-child at 34.5%. The secondmost common relationship was sibling or stepsibling at 26.4%. Though other was a somewhat close third at 25.5%.

2019 reported felony sex offenses in Alaska:

Of victims up to 10 years old, 54% of suspects were family members, the majority.

Of relationships between suspect and victim among family members, the most common was other at 44.2%. The

secondmost common relationship was parent-child at 29.4%.

Of victims 11 to 17 years old, 33% of suspects were family members.

Of relationships between suspect and victim among family members, the most common was also other at 31.2%. The secondmost common relationship was also parent-child at 29.7%.

Stranger danger was always rare.

My opinions: Younger children are most dependent on their families, so they're easier targets for abusers within families, while older children may have more independence and activities outside the home to expose them to acquaintance abusers.

Legal guardians' attitudes and positions on sex ed or sexual abuse prevention programs can affect children's safety. If the primary caregiver is not the abuser but also bans such education, an abuser who is an extended family member or other family member in the home will benefit from that lack of education by being more likely to successfully manipulate and threaten the child.

2019 report on Alaska felony-level sex offenses:

<https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/42ac6a7b-fbea-4daf-8328-38fae716137f/Felony-Level-Sex-Offenses-2019>

2020 report on Alaska felony-level sex offenses:

<https://dps.alaska.gov/getmedia/38dd8f78-dd21-48bc-a872-3e9d453f53c3/2020-Felony-Level-Sex-Offenses>